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Final Installments of Pindling's Budget Speech

32980101a Nassau *THE TRIBUNE* in English
18, 19 Nov 87 pp 4, 9, 10

[Speech by Prime Minister Lynden O. Pindling]

[18 Nov 87 pp 4, 10]

[Text] Over nineteen percent of the Budget has been allocated for education, including youth, sports and culture.

Prime Minister Pindling, who is also Minister of Finance, outlined his government's plans for education in his Budget speech to the House on Monday.

He said additional classrooms are under construction in several secondary schools in New Providence, but he deplored the "growing level of mindless vandalism," which has started to "absorb resources needed elsewhere in the education system."

He said provision has been made to increase the number of new facilities in secondary schools in New Providence and the Family Islands, as well as secondary units in all-age schools of additional science laboratories and rooms for instruction in technical and vocational subjects. It is necessary for the Government to respond to the considerable shift of the population from the North central part of New Providence to the East, South and West, the Prime Minister said.

The first 22 pages of the 48-page Budget was published in Tuesday's Tribune.

The Budget text continues. The Prime Minister said:

I have made provision for the construction and completion of one secondary school in South off Carmichael Road, New Providence and plans are almost complete for a secondary school above the Southern Recreation Grounds.

I have made provision for the construction of a new secondary school in North Eleuthera, the completion of the rebuilding of the all-age school in Harbour Island, which will provide improved facilities for secondary education, and for the improvement of secondary education facilities at West End, Governor's Harbour High School, Preston H Albury High School at Rock Sound and the Arthur's Town and Old Bight Schools at Cat Island. Funds have been provided for a continuation of the programme for the building of teachers' cottages where these are essential in the islands and I have made provision for the repair and maintenance of existing primary school buildings in New Providence and the Family Islands and for teachers' cottages. A new item has been introduced to begin and effective legislation will establish the framework to promote sound sports administration.

The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Affairs will undertake a study to investigate the feasibility of erecting a multi-purpose indoor arena with a view to providing modern facilities for indoor sports. Emphasis will be directed towards the design, maximum use, financing, maintenance, and operating costs of such a facility.

In the technical and specialised areas of sports management, coaches, officials, trainers and other related personnel throughout the Bahamas will be encouraged to pool their resources and expertise in order to instill and foster scientific principles and techniques in their respective areas. The skills of our proven sports experts will be utilised to train Bahamians interested in the advancement of sports. When necessary, international sports experts, in areas such as Sports Medicine and other highly specialised areas, will be called upon to assist in the development of meaningful programmes. Through such exposure the Ministry of Youth and Sports will ensure that athletes in New Providence and the Family Islands have equal access to the best coaching and management skills available.

In the vital and important area of recreation, a new and revitalised scheme will be introduced to upgrade and systematically maintain existing parks and playgrounds as well as to build new community parks to provide wholesome leisure time activity for all our people.

Women's Affairs

In 1988, my Government will initiate relevant programmes for women at the national level in accordance with national objectives. One major concern that will be addressed in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and the Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation is that of equipping more young women with employable skills so that they can find their way into the mainstream of the Bahamian economy.

Security

It is my Government's intention to reorganise and enlarge the Royal Bahamas Police Force to increase its capability to meet the challenges of the times and launch a major assault against crimes of all kinds. The trained police resources will be increased by a phased programme of civilianisation by which civilians will be appointed to release police officers presently performing duties requiring no police training or experience. Proposals for reorganisation include a phased increase in the establishment to meet the increasing demands on the Force. These proposals will be accompanied by a recruiting campaign aimed at attracting qualified young people into the Police Service. More attention will be given to the recruitment of suitably qualified young women.

The conditions of service will be improved and the Police Force promoted as a worthy and rewarding career. Incentives will be necessary to attract well-educated and

better qualified candidates. The introduction of incentives similar to the Government-funded Life and Medical Insurance for members of the Police Force, the Defence Force and Prison Officers during 1987 are under consideration.

A Corruption Investigation Unit was established some months ago to investigate all allegations of corruption. This Unit will be supplemented by a new Complaints and Discipline Unit to deal with all aspects of public complaints against individual officers. The main objective is to restore public trust and confidence in the Force.

The policy-making functions of the Force will also be enhanced by the recently established Research and Planning Unit at Police Headquarters which will be the focal point for all future planning and development.

The new Police and Fire Station constructed in the Cable Beach area is being air conditioned and will be opened early in 1988. It will enhance operational efficiency in that area.

The Police cannot work in isolation, however, so efforts will be made to enlist the more active support of the public. A Community Relations Branch will be established to meet this objective and to enable the public to understand policing problems and assist where practicable.

Transportation is a key factor in the fight against crime throughout The Bahamas and my Government is committed to provide additional vehicles for police use.

Preliminary plans have been prepared for a multi-purpose social and recreational building and facilities on the grounds of the Police College in Oakes Field. Its construction will be commenced in 1988. A Police and Fire Station will be constructed in Flamingo Gardens on the southern side of Carmichael Road to serve the rapidly expanding population in the Carmichael and Adelaide districts and another in the Holy Cross, Garden Hills and South Beach Areas on a site to be selected. The Police Station in Inagua is presently under re-construction and will be completed in 1988. A Police Station will be built at Moores Island and fire sheds will be constructed in seven Family Islands. The Government recognises the need to relocate the Central Police Station and to provide improved detention facilities for accused persons attending Supreme Court trials.

My Government is continuing its excellent co-operative efforts with the United States in the interdiction and seizure of drugs transiting The Bahamas and destined for the United States. The Government recognises the need for expanding, restructuring and regionalising the drug enforcement capability through The Bahamas. Accordingly, an expanded Drug Enforcement Branch will be introduced in 1988 to meet this end. The Branch will include a full narcotic drug operational and intelligence capability with regional field offices at Nassau,

Freeport and George Town. Smaller field offices at Andros and Eleuthera will report to Nassau and similar offices at Abaco and Bimini will report to Freeport. The organisation which will be created is designed to confront the domestic and international traffic in cocaine and marijuana affecting The Bahamas and neighbouring countries.

The need to secure professional drug enforcement investigator-training for the Police Force as well as technical training in file and record keeping, drug intelligence collection, analysis and dissemination is now being addressed. This will have to be provided by non-Bahamian professionals in each field.

My Government also recognises that given the geographical configuration of the Bahamas and its vast territorial seas the role of the Royal Bahamas Defense Force is increasingly important. The establishment of a marine outpost at Gun Cay in the northwestern Bahamas has been beneficial to the joint Bahamas-United States interdiction efforts. The United States Government has generously provided a 150-ton boat lift for use at the Coral Harbour Marine Base to service Defence Force and United States Coast Guard vessels engaged in joint drug law enforcement exercises in The Bahamas. New jetties are being constructed at HMBS Coral Harbour to replace old ones and the construction of a modern fully equipped workshop and training facility will be commenced in 1988. Refitting of Defence Force craft will be continued in the coming year and the Force's communications equipment will be upgraded.

Manpower training and development will be continued through locally based as well as overseas training programmes for young men and women.

Immigration

In the recent past, our efforts to control the flow of illegal aliens have been limited and due to the unsettled conditions in neighbouring countries in our region the flow shows every sign of intensifying in the foreseeable future. If our efforts to secure reasonable control over illegal immigration are to be successful, therefore, the Government must intensify its surveillance capabilities and increase manpower in the Department of Immigration.

The introduction of a computerised Data System will greatly enhance the Government's ability to identify undesirables on the Stop List and the Restricted List and will also provide vital statistics for analytical and administrative purposes.

The Judiciary

My Government has already announced plans for the erection of a Magistrates Court complex to be erected on the western side of Baillou Hill Road, southward of the new Bahamas Electricity Corporation Headquarters. Building plans are now being drawn for a building which

will house eight Magistrates Courts. These will include two which will hear drug matters, a family court, a traffic court, consultation rooms, separate facilities for juveniles, adequate registry accommodation and other necessary features of modern court buildings. A new court complex consisting of a Supreme Court and two Magistrates Courts is also being planned for erection in Freeport.

Court Records and Vital Statistics

Computerization is being introduced into the Supreme Court Registry for storage and easy retrieval of court data. The Supreme Court records, which have been damaged through constant use by the public, are being repaired, microfilmed and preserved.

The importance of vital statistics relative to births and deaths and the value of information on real property and company transactions are appreciated by the Government. Therefore provision has been made for the introduction of automation in the Registrar General's Department.

Agriculture

In terms of continued infrastructural development, 1987 was a productive year for the Department of Agriculture. The Plant Propagation Unit which was completed in late 1986, commenced the local production of fruit and ornamental plants, while a modern greenhouse was added to the facility. The pilot cascarilla plant study, for which technical assistance and partial funding came from the Industrial Development Unit for Technical Co-operation, was completed and during 1988 the local extraction of cascarilla oil for export to Europe and the United States will commence.

My Government, with the assistance of the Food and Agricultural Organisation, recently developed a National Food and Nutrition Plan for the Commonwealth. This plan has been described by the FAO as being more action-oriented than most the Agro-Development projects the Government has so far undertaken. The decline in small ruminant production has been a major concern of the Department of Agriculture and a task force has been appointed to undertake a comprehensive study of this problem and make recommendations for a reversal of this undesirable trend.

In addition, as a means of stimulating some activities in this direction, my Government will assist in establishing four 50-headed units in the southeastern Bahamas. Each unit will have a dog-proof night fold so that one of the major constraints to small ruminant production can be overcome. Where feasible, the system of rearing livestock in combination with fruit orchards will be utilised.

Onion, citrus and mango production in Exuma and Eleuthera is being studied by a crops task force. Appropriate measures initiated during 1987 to check these

areas will continue into the 1988 production season. The successful crop diversification programme involving corn and irish potato production in the Northern Bahamas will be extended to the central and southeastern Bahamas with the planned production of suitable acreages of peanuts, sweet potatoes, and other non-perishable items for which there is a large market. The crop diversification programme has been designed and implemented as one of the methods of combating the problem of over-production of certain perishable items.

The efficient handling, distribution and disposal of local produce continues to be a major concern of my Government, however. To this end, the establishment of adequate storage and cooling facilities for produce along with sales outlets in New Providence, Grand Bahama and Inagua will be vigorously pursued in 1988.

Fisheries

My Government will continue to emphasise the orderly development of the fishing industry during 1988 and, with the assistance of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, will police our waters to ensure, to the best of our ability, that the resources are retained for exploitation by our Bahamian fishermen.

The crawfish export for 1986 totalled a record high of \$21 million and there is every indication that figures for 1987 will exceed that total. During 1988, in addition to increasing production of the traditional resources of shallow water species such as crawfish, snapper, grouper and conch, emphasis will be placed on diversifying the resource base from the shallow waters to include the harvest of deep-water snapper and grouper and stone crabs.

Trade and Industry

My Government is mindful of the need to create greater job opportunities and to this end will continue to encourage industrial development, an essential factor in the growth of our economy.

The Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation will increase its promotional efforts abroad with the assistance of The Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Tourism. The Corporation will identify, attend and organise business opportunity seminars and conferences both at home and abroad in 1988.

To meet the needs of several applicants, additional factory space in the Soldier Road Industrial Park will be erected in 1988 at an approximate cost of \$1.5 million. Recently, an additional 40,000 sq ft of factory space was completed at an estimated cost of \$787,300.00. Applications have already been submitted to use space in the Governor's Harbour Naval Complex and action will be taken in 1988 to have appropriate buildings upgraded.

During 1988 the necessary research will be conducted for appropriate trade policy legislation to ensure that Bahamas entrepreneurs benefit from reciprocity in their trading relations with our more developed trading partners while maximizing all benefits extended through their various preferential trade programmes. Now that several companies registered under the Industries Encouragement Act have achieved export capability, efforts will be made to ensure that more products made in The Bahamas gain access to markets in other developing countries in Africa, the Caribbean and South American through our active participation in the Global Preferences Programme being developed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for trade between member countries of the Group of 77 of which The Bahamas is a member.

Labour

During 1988 my Government will continue its efforts to improve and upgrade the services now offered to the Bahamian public by the Department of Labour and seek to expand the Department's work coverage to those islands not currently served on a regular basis.

In the area of employment my Government recognises the need to take fresh initiatives in promoting the employment of women and, inter alia, to organise special training programmes toward this end.

Employment services will be taken to the people in the areas where they live and/or congregate, using a special "Job mobile", that is a bus equipped with a desk converting it to a mobile employment office on site.

Civil Aviation

My Government is conscious of the vital role that air transportation plays in our tourist-based economy. Consequently, airport development both in New Providence and the Family Islands will be intensified.

In New Providence, high priority will be placed on the improvement of airport terminal facilities. To this end, work will continue on the construction of a two-lane canopy along the land side of the terminal building, a new crash fire and rescue building, a police station and a large VIP lounge. The aircraft surveillance radar equipment will be upgraded to the most modern state-of-the-art equipment thereby improving the operating efficiency and enhancing the safety of aircraft operating in and traversing Bahamian airspace. The next phase of the Nassau International Airport development programme will provide a new United States Precleared terminal with upper level boarding fingers fully equipped with air bridges and ten aircraft parking stands. A new sewer system and Control Tower are scheduled for completion in 1988.

In order to keep pace with the existing growth of air arrivals at Nassau International Airport, immediate steps will be taken to extend the existing Precleared Lounge by 6,000 sq ft to eliminate the current congestion during peak hours of the day. My Government will also maintain and improve security measures at the Nassau International Airport to guard against threats of terrorism, smuggling, drug trafficking and other unlawful acts.

In the Family Islands the real potential lies. My Government will therefore continue to upgrade and improve airport facilities and navigational aids in order to sustain tourism and economic growth. The runway at Governor's Harbour airport will be extended to 8,000 feet to accommodate medium and short range jet traffic from Canada and the United States and a new airport will be built at Moss Town, Exuma. This facility, when completed in 1988, will also be capable of accommodating medium and short range jet traffic such as Boeing 272's and 738's from Canada and the United States.

Bahamasair

Bahamasair, the National Flag Carrier, will continue to play a major role in the development of tourism in The Bahamas while, at the same time, maintaining the vital communication link between New Providence and the Family Islands. The airline proposed to acquire new equipment, to upgrade its services and to encourage more Bahamians to travel to more of the Family Islands greater emphasis will be placed on training in all areas of operation and efforts directed to improve the airline's image will be intensified.

Ports and Harbours

It has already been announced that a major Nassau Harbour development programme, at a cost of approximately \$50 million, will be undertaken over the next two years. This project will provide:

- (1) Five additional cruise ship berths at Prince George Dock;
- (2) widening of the approach channel;
- (3) the creation of a reception and transport plaza;
- (4) the widening and improvement of Woodes Rogers Walk;
- (5) an extension to the mailboat docking facilities at Potter's Cay with appropriate warehouse and storage facilities;
- (6) two cruise ship piers at Morgan's Bluff, Andros and Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera; and
- (7) rehabilitation of the deep-water port at Snake Cay, Abaco with appropriate on-shore facilities.

In addition, investigations are now underway as to the feasibility of developing a new deep-water port at Master Harbour which is a few miles east of George Town, Exuma.

The Boat Registration Act, the Water Skiing Act and the Motor Boat Control Act will be amended during 1988 to bring them in line with modern trends.

Maritime Affairs

My Government will continue to promote The Bahamas as one of the world's largest and most reputable ship registration centres. Efforts to date have been remarkably successful. The Bahamas continues to attract internationally renowned shipowners of the highest repute, representing a wide range of nationalities who have come to appreciate the advantages offered by The Bahams. Every effort will be made to ensure that the trend of increased revenue and increased tonnage continues. We have gained the reputation as the fastest growing merchant fleet despite the serious recession that the shipping industry has experienced. Our register now stands at some 600 ships of approximately nine million gross tons.

I wish to emphasise that the rapid increase in tonnage has been achieved without any increase in serious casualties to Bahamians flag ships. The Bahamas maintains an almost casualties to Bahamian Flag Ships. [sentence as published] The Bahamas maintains an almost casualty-free record equal to any in the shipping community and one that is better than most.

Road Traffic

Increased vehicular traffic and poor driving habits have increased the level of danger on our streets. Therefore, in 1988, several major road safety campaigns will be conducted to educate the public on the most safe way to travel on our streets.

As a result of meaningful research work, a system of new busing routes and schedules was implemented to better serve the needs of the travelling public in New Providence. The new system would improve both the flow and accessibility of public transportation. However, my Government continues to be disappointed in the quality of bus services offered to the public. Some services are still too erratic; some drivers are still too reckless and some owners still do not exercise sufficient supervision and control over the manner in which their franchises are operated. If franchise owners in New Providence remain unwilling or unable to effectively control their drivers and fail to operate efficient and safe buses, my Government is satisfied that the only other alternative may be the abolition of the present system of multiple franchises and the substitution and development of a single, unified, island-wide public transportation system.

In 1988, my Government intends to increase the number of taxis in several islands. It is believed that if, at the same time, the number of female taxi drivers were to be increased, particularly in Nassau and Freeport, the quality of service provided to Bahamians and tourists alike would be significantly improved.

[19 Nov 87 pp 9, 10]

[Text] Today the Tribune publishes the final installment of the 48-page Budget Communication tabled in the House of Assembly on Monday by Prime Minister Pindling, who is also Minister of Finance.

In the Communication, debate of which will open in the House at 10:30 am Monday, Sir Lynden dealt with employment, retail prices, construction, external trade, budget performance for 1987, tourism, foreign affairs, housing, social services, health, education, youth and sports, women's affairs, security immigration, the judiciary, court records and vital statistics, agriculture, fisheries, trade and industry, labour, civil aviation, Bahama-sair, ports and harbours, maritime affairs and road traffic.

The Budget statement continues:

Public Works and Facilities

The further development of the country's infrastructure has in 1987 and will again in 1988 spearhead my Government's programmes for the development of The Bahamas.

The road paving programme on New Providence made record progress in 1987 as an assault was made on surfacing sub-division roads as well as continuing to improve the major routes. As a result the hot-mix asphalt plant produced higher tonnages than ever before achieved. Plans and negotiations with landowners are well advanced for improving the junctions at Blue Hill Road and Carmichael Road, Wulff Road and Marathon Road and at Marathon Road and Robinson Road. A new road linking Cow Pen Road, Carmichael Road, Harrold Road and Thompson Boulevard is well advanced in its planning stages as is a link road from Moss Road to Cordeaux Avenue. It is anticipated that all of these schemes will commence work during 1988. In order to ease traffic flows in Nassau, a scheme for linking the traffic signals will be installed along Wulff Road.

In the Family Islands the programme of up-grading the roads by either total reconstruction or patch-and-seal as appropriate continued in 1987 with a record mileage achieved and it is intended to extend this work even further in 1988. Investigations are being undertaken as to the viability of using hot-mix on the Family Islands and, with this in mind and in order to cut transportation and mobilization costs, my Government is seeking to purchase a suitable shallow-draft ship which will be used to move a portable hot-mix from island to island.

Plans have been prepared and tenders are being sought for the replacement of the existing, deteriorating bridge at Glass Window, Eleuthera. Other Family Island improvements completed or commenced in 1987 were the repair of the runway at Mathew Town, Inagua, a new terminal building at Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera where, as I have said, the runway is to be extended; North Eleuthera, Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Congo Town, South Andros and South Bimini where terminal buildings have been provided or improved and at San Andros, North Andros where the runway and aircraft stands have been surfaced and the terminal buildings are to be improved and extended.

Tenders are currently being sought from suitably qualified Bahamian contractors who, in joint-venture with international contractors, will be able to undertake the construction of the multi-million dollar development of a new United States flight terminal at Nassau International Airport. This terminal will consist of a three storey building of more than 118,000 square feet and two storey boarding fingers to ten boarding gates equipped with air bridges. This building will contain the US preclearance station, holding lounge and offices for the airlines and the Civil Aviation Department. Other developments commenced or completed at Nassau International Airport in 1987 include the canopy in front of the existing buildings, a new sewerage system, a new VIP facility, a new police station and a new crash, fire, rescue facility. The existing precleared facility is being extended to permit more aircraft to use the airport and security has been improved by the provision of additional fencing. Another place where security has been improved and will be further improved is in Nassau Harbour where, as I have previously stated, my Government is about to enter into a multi-million dollar contract for the provision of additional cruise ship berths and facilities in Nassau and several Family Islands.

Other Family Island docking facilities improved in 1987 include those at Spanish Wells, Clarence Town, Lisbon Creek, Tarpum Bay, Green Turtle Cay, Moores Island, Sandy Point and Rock Sound.

In 1987 considerable improvements were made in the potable water supply in the Family Islands with schemes in South Andros, Marsh Harbour, Fresh Creek, Moores Island, Waterford, Deadman's Cay, Steventon, Maclean's Town and Spanish Wells. For 1988 similar progress is planned with extended use of photovoltaic pumps. My Government has also agreed to the preparation of a contract which is intended to provide potable water to all the settlements on Eleuthera in such a way that only minor maintenance works should be required between now and the year 2000. The contract will include the provision of a pipe line from Alice Town to Governor's Harbour.

A new administrative building is nearing completion at Nicholl's Town and, in cooperation with the National Insurance Board, clinics are soon to be completed at

Nicholl's Town, Fresh Creek, Mangrove Cay and Marsh Harbour on the Family Islands and at Fleming Street, Elizabeth Estates and Flamingo Gardens on New Providence. Again, in cooperation with the National Insurance Board, the Development of the area near to their new offices at Blue Hill Road is designed to include a civic park incorporating a new magistrates courts buildings, one or two new government office buildings and a post office within a well landscaped strip facing onto Big Pond.

Telecommunications

In the area of telecommunications, continued effort has been placed on expanding and modernizing the network in new Providence and on extending improved service to the Family Islands. Let the record show as follows:

(1) In New Providence and Paradise Island 37,726 lines with new digital exchanges with modern enhanced features have been commissioned. Recently, an additional 15,000 digital lines have been placed in service, making the New Providence network 100% digital. The increasing number of new houses and the many new businesses have generated a steady demand for new telephone service. It has therefore been a continuing effort to install cables in areas that are underserved as well as to connect the subscribers in new subdivisions. While the supply still lags, every effort is being made to improve this situation thus enabling everyone to obtain service upon request.

(2) Earlier this year, our international communications link was strengthened by the commissioning of an Intel-sat Standard "A" Earth Station. This provided a diversification of facilities thus reducing our dependency on the single submarine cable to Florida. Direct communication links were thereby established with the United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, Bermuda, Canada, Italy and the United States. Cognizant of the fact that our economy is heavily dependent on tourism and banking, the Bahamas Telecommunications Corporation has been kept abreast of the latest technology in subscriber equipment and has made these equipment and services available to its subscribers.

(3) A substantial investment has been made in the extension of modern telephone service to the Family Islands. Just over a year ago, the Grand Bahama Telephone Company was purchased from CONTEL thus placing all telecommunications services in the country under the Bahamas Telecommunications Corporation.

(4) In the southeast islands of Acklins, Crooked Islands, Ragged Island, Mayaguana and San Salvador, Tropo-scatter Radiotelephone Systems were installed thereby placing good quality telephone services within easy reach of the inhabitants of those islands.

(5) The Exuma Cays and Cat Island have been linked to the National Telephone network by a digital Microwave link. Automatic telephone service is now available at Rolleville, Barratterre, Little Farmer's Cay, Black Point, Staniel Cay in Exuma, and the Bight, Arthur's Town and Orange Creek in Cat Island.

(6) In Eleuthera digital telephone service was activated at Green Castle in July of this year. At Spanish Wells the old manual switchboard has been replaced with a new digital exchange and an outside cable network to serve the needs of all the residents there. The installation of digital exchanges is in progress at Lower Bogue, Alice Town, Tarpum Bay and Savannah Sound. In the south, the settlements of Deep Creek, Waterford, Wemyss Bight, Millers and Bannerman Town are being linked by cable into the Green Castle Exchange.

(7) The island of Abaco and its cays are currently being upgraded to a fully digital system. A digital switch has already been brought into service at Marsh Harbour with significant improvements to the service. Exchanges at all the settlements previously serviced by a single telephone link are under construction. A digital Microwave System is well underway linking the various exchanges into the national telephone network. Distribution cables have already been installed in many of the settlements.

(8) In Little Exuma and Long Island, construction is underway on a building to house radio, exchange and emergency power generating equipment to provide telephone service there.

(9) The island of Andros has already been serviced with digital exchanges to a great extent and work is in progress to complete the remaining areas.

Electricity

The Bahamas Electricity Corporation recently demonstrated its effectiveness in reducing its fuel consumption by passing on to its consumers both in New Providence and the Family Islands a substantial reduction in electricity rates. A current \$27 million expansion programme involving a 20 megawatt gas turbine generator for the Blue Hills Power Station and a 10 megawatt diesel generator for the Clifton Pier Power Station will help contain the pressure of increasing fuel prices and at the same time meet the growth in electricity consumption from commercial, touristic and industrial development current taking place in New Providence.

In the Family Islands an essential element of my Government's objective to develop the infrastructure to ensure an adequate supply of electricity to encourage development and provide residents with a similar level of amenity as enjoyed by their relatives in New Providence. Accordingly, the Bahamas Electricity Corporation, in conjunction with the Government, is in the process of implementing a \$30 million development programme. This programme will provide new schemes

of electrification on Andros, Cat Island and Exuma. The programme will include the building of a new power station on San Salvador and the extension of the electrical systems of Abaco, Bimini and Eleuthera by the development of island-wide integrated electrical networks and the installation of eleven new 1,500 kilowatt diesel generators.

It will be necessary in the short term to raise part of the capital development costs for the proposed electricity improvements in New Providence and the Family Islands through the electricity rates. In order to help facilitate the extension of electricity to the smaller communities in the Family Islands which are remote from existing or planned electrical systems, encouragement will be given to those communities to develop self-help schemes by the granting of electricity franchises to representative groups of residents. These franchises will permit the reclaim of customs duty on fuel, plant and materials which will help to reduce the cost of electricity production. Initial applications have already been received from three communities.

When the United States vacates its Navy Base at High Rock, Grand Bahama, the Bahamas Electricity Corporation will acquire the Base's Power Station with a view to securing the supply of electricity presently provided by the Base and extending the supply to additional communities.

Apart from the strides made by the Bahamas Electricity Corporation in providing services in New Providence and throughout the Family Islands, it is fitting that I should publicly recognize the high calibre of technicians at BEC, particularly those who travelled to Bermuda to assist in restoring the electricity supply in the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd. The people of Bermuda are most grateful for their assistance and the people of the Bahamas should be justly proud.

Water and Sewerage

The Water and Sewerage Corporation has made considerable progress in alleviating the water crisis which was so evident in New Providence during the 1970's. This achievement has been made possible through the successful implementation of the water barging scheme and the expansion and rehabilitation of New Providence wellfields. The tremendous effort that has been put into the barging scheme and New Providence wellfield rehabilitation has resulted in an increase of the daily production from 4.9 million gallons per day in 1976 to 6.5 million gallons in 1987. This is a significant achievement in that when the Corporation was established in 1976, water production was on a declining trend. The Corporation is rebuilding its wellfields in such a way that there will be a considerable reduction in the energy required to operate them in future.

The Corporation has not only been busy in stepping up the output in water production but has also been putting a large amount of resources into the rehabilitation and the extension of the New Providence Water distribution network. During recent months, new water mains were laid in areas such as Gladstone Road, Poinciana Estates, Bozine Town, Harold Road, Sea Grape, Grosvenor Close, Nassau Village and Seven Hills. In a similar manner water mains were renewed in several streets including Mount Royal Avenue, First Street, Coconut Grove, Tower Heights, Waterloo Road and Wulff Road. The above major works, together with some minor ones, cost approximately \$900,000.

Many man-hours have already been put into the preparation of the necessary engineering details which will facilitate the construction of several water and sewerage works in 1988. Costing about \$2 million, the works will include the expansion of the North Andros wellfield, South-west wellfield improvements, Perpalls wellfield rehabilitation and the renewal of water mains in several streets such as Palm Tree Avenue, North Street, Eighth Street, Mackey Street, Sixth Street, Fowler Street, Hospital Lane, Poinciana Drive, Tuckaway subdivision and several others.

In its effort to continue to meet the growing residential, commercial and industrial demand for improved water and sewerage services, the Corporation is finalizing a new five-year plan which will result in the crystallization of projects in the following areas:

- (1) Further wellfield projects;
- (2) Improvement to the marine fleet;
- (3) The elimination of the Yellow Elder and Big Pond Vacuum Sewerage System;
- (4) The replacing and upgrading of water mains;
- (5) The expansion of sewerage collection treatment and disposal;
- (6) The mechanization of various pumping stations;
- (7) The improvement and modernization of work centres and information system.

The Corporation has been acclaimed internationally for the manner in which it has been able to organise itself to progressively deal with the water problems that have plagued New Providence for so many years.

The 1988 Budget

I have pegged this year's Capital Budget at \$79.8 million representing an increase of approximately \$12.3 million, or 18% over last year's budget. The Ministry of Works and Utilities has been allocated an estimated \$14.4 million, or 18% of the Budget to continue construction of

more and better roads in New Providence and the Family Islands and the maintenance and upkeep of Government buildings throughout The Bahamas. I have budgeted some \$13.0 million, or 16% of the Budget, the Ministry of Education in order to expand, repair, build and equip schools in New Providence and the Family Islands. For the further provision of better health care, the development of hospitals and clinics and the renovation and refurbishment of existing facilities, the Ministry of Health has been provided approximately \$4.1 million. This figure standing on its own, does not tell the whole story, however. Substantial additional funds will be provided from the Health Infrastructure Fund of the National Insurance Board for the development of new health facilities in the nation including new hospitals and health centres.

\$4.25 million have been allocated to the Police Department to assist it to provide greater security in both Nassau and the Family Islands and to improve its mobile capacity.

The provision of adequate public safety, education, training and health care is clearly an essential component for the proper and orderly development of the nation's resources. And a strong, secure, healthy, vibrant and well-educated work force is essential to increasing investor confidence in and large-scale investment flows into the country.

My Government takes very serious the mandate it has received during the recent General Elections and, in demonstration of its commitment to the people of this great country, pledges to continue to mobilize its efforts towards the efficient implementation of its development projects. The 1988 capital Development Budget, one of a series of progressive budgets I propose to bring to Parliament during this new term, represents my government's plans to further stimulate our expanding economy.

It offers a window of employment and other benefits for the people of The Bahamas, and if these benefits are to be realized it is absolutely essential for such steps to be taken now.

Accordingly, I have prepared and will give notice of a resolution seeking Parliament's authorization to obtain the capital financing by way of a Registered Stock issue very early in the year. In this way, adequate funding would be available on a timely basis to ensure continuity for development projects throughout the coming year.

The estimates of Revenue for 1988 stand in the amount of \$515.8 million. This represents a modest and realistic growth rate over the 1987 Estimates. The Estimates on the Recurrent Account is somewhat lower, in the amount of \$511.9 million, providing a modest cushion of almost \$4 million which would serve in some small measure as a

contribution towards our Capital Development Programme. I have geared the Recurrent Budget towards the provision of services, the maintenance of law and order and the upkeep of infrastructure in the interest of the Bahamian public.

Education including

Youth, Sports and Culture—\$113.0 million or 19.3%

Law Enforcement including Immigration—\$77.7 million or 13.1%

Health—\$77.6 million or 13.1%

Tourism—\$35.5 million or 6.0%

Public Works—\$30.7 million or 5.2%

Debt service, which includes the payment of interest and the repayment of the principal of government loans, amounts to \$104.6 million or 17.7% of the Budget and will be derived entirely from Recurrent Revenue in keeping with my Government's policy in that regard.

\$253.9 million or 43% of the entire Budget has been allocated to personal emoluments. Honourable members will recall that in January of this year Police Force, Defence Force and Prison personnel received special increases in their personal emoluments. I am happy to say that the amount of \$253.9 million includes new special increases which my government has awarded to members of the nursing staff of the Ministry of Health embracing scales from midwife to director of nursing. The increases, which range from \$450 per year to \$1,100 per year, will be in addition to the normal annual increments and will come into effect on January 1, 1988. The Salaries Review Committee that was appointed earlier this year to review, generally, the levels of salaries throughout the Public Service has not yet reported. However, when the report is submitted, I would hope that the Committee's recommendations would bring about improved efficiency and productivity in the Public Service.

Adopting a formula similar to the one used for the Public Service earlier this year, the increases for Nursing Staff will be as follows:

Salary Range	Increase
\$ 7,900 - \$12,350	\$ 450
\$12,500 - \$14,300	\$ 500
\$14,450 - \$16,300	\$ 600
\$16,450 - \$18,550	\$ 700
\$18,700 - \$21,200	\$ 800
\$21,350 - \$24,600	\$ 900
\$24,800 - \$27,400	\$1000
\$27,750 - \$29,750	\$1100

The budget that I am laying on the Table of the House today represents the twentieth such document that has been prepared and presented by my Government. I believe it to be yet another example of my Government's meeting the needs of the Bahamian people through prudent management of the nation's resources.

In the recent Speech from the Throne my Government foreshadowed that over the next five years emphasis will be placed on economic development, new employment opportunities and the continuation of social programmes for improving both the standard and quality of life, all with the objective of lifting The Bahamas from a Third World country by the end of the century. My Capital Development Budget for 1988, is the first step in the attainment of these objectives and the implementation of those plans. It is a synopsis of my Government's initiatives, strategies and plans for the provision of better health care, education, communications, docks, airports and security which are all essential to the orderly economic development of our society. The demands for these goods and services are an ever increasing one. Nevertheless, my Government will seek to provide these essential public goods and services as best it can having regard to our limited financial resources. We pray God's blessings upon our endeavours.

/9274

First ROK Ambassador Presents Credentials
32980103b Belize City THE BEACON in English
14 Nov 87 pp 3, 5

[Text] (GIS)—The first Ambassador to Belize of the Republic of Korea arrived in Belize on Sunday, 8th November. His Excellency Mr Ra Hyoun Tak presented his credentials to the Governor General of Belize, Her Excellency Dr Dame Minita Gordon, at Belize House in Belmopan the following day, Monday November 9th.

In presenting his credentials, Ambassador Tak stated that it was "indeed a great honour to be given the opportunity to serve my country as Ambassador for the Republic of Korea in Belize." He continued, "I am happy at the cordial ties presently existing between Korea and Belize, and it shall be my very pleasant mission henceforth to cement further the friendly relations and firm bonds of mutual understanding between us. It is my Government's wish that both countries could closely co-operate in the goal of expanding our industries and promoting world peace."

Ambassador Tak also conveyed warmest personal greetings from President Chun Doo Hwan of Korea to Governor General Dr Dame Minita Gordon. In response the Governor General warmly welcomed the first Korean Ambassador to Belize and expressed confidence that relations between Belize and the Republic of Korea will continue to be friendly and will be further strengthened for the mutual benefits of both nations. She also conveyed warmest personal regards to the Korean President.

The Ambassador presented the Governor General with a gift from President Chun and in return the Governor General presented the Ambassador with a gift for President Chun.

Ambassador Tak was introduced to the Governor General by Protocol Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Hipolito Bautista. The Ambassador was accompanied by the Third Secretary in the Korean Embassy in Mexico City, Mr Jae Hyun Bae. The Korean diplomats paid courtesy calls on Prime Minister the Rt Hon Manuel Esquivel, the Deputy Prime Minister Hon Curl Thompson, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Economic Development Hon Dean Barrow, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism Hon Eduardo Juan, Minister of Works and Housing Hon Hubert Elrington and Deputy Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Hon Henry Young. Ambassador Tak and Mr Bae were hosted at a luncheon at the Belmopan Convention

Hotel on Monday. Following the luncheon Ambassador Tak presented the documents for a number of vehicles which the Government of Korea has donated to the Government of Belize.

The Korean diplomats have also met with the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Mexican Ambassador His Excellency Mr Martinez del Sobral and the President of the Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Mr Michael Williams.

Ambassador Tak joined the Korean Foreign Service in 1975. He had has postings in Peru, Paraguay, Spain and Mexico, where he is presently Resident Ambassador.

/9274

TIMES Discusses Establishment of Intelligence Service

32980103a Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES
in English 15 Nov 87 pp 1, 16

[Text] Belize City, Thursday, November 12, 1987—At tomorrow's sitting of the House of Representatives, the Government will introduce a bill paving the way for the legal establishment of the political secret service called SIS—Secret Intelligence Service.

The SIS was in fact formed in mid January of this year as a unit separate and distinct from the police force. A Director was appointed—Mr Efrain Usher who became answerable not to the Commissioner of Police, but directly to the Minister of Home Affairs, Deputy Prime Minister Curl Thompson.

From the onset the creation of this politically controlled secret service forbode dark crimes of human rights abuses justified in the name of national security. Already today there are countless reports from many law abiding citizens of harrassment and intimidation by the SIS. It has further come to light that officers of the SIS are used by the UDP politicians to spy on the activities of their political opponents. One political commentator sees this political secret force as similar in design and purpose as the dreaded Ton Ton Macoute of Papa Doc of Haiti and the Mongoose Gang of UFO chaser Eric Gairy of Grenada.

According to a reliable source, the senior officers of the Belize Police Force have to a man taken strong objection to SIS. The government has been advised that SIS has been operating outside of the law from the time of its establishment. And now the Esquivel government with its majority in parliament will seek to ride roughshod over the democratic rights of the people and proceed to legislate the SIS for their political secret police.

/9274

Throne Speech Hit by Media, Opposition PLP

Text of Speech

32980104 Hamilton *THE ROYAL GAZETTE* in
English 7 Nov 87 p 4

[Text] Government of Bermuda Speech from the Throne. Delivered by His Excellency the Governor on the occasion of the Convening of Parliament, Friday, 6th November, 1987.

Mr President and Members of The Senate:

Mr Speaker and Members of The Hon House of Assembly:

The capacity of Bermudians to work together in a common cause has never been so dramatically demonstrated as it was in the wake of the trail of destruction by Hurricane Emily in September.

The resilience, determination and resolve shown by Bermudians and residents alike in coping with a serious national crisis was as touching in its unifying effect as it was effective in moving the Country forward, quickly and purposefully, to a state of normality.

The real heroes were the Bermudian people, brought together in a spirit of cooperation which augurs well for the future. Our emergency services reacted swiftly and efficiently and Government will continue to ensure that such services are maintained in a high state of preparedness.

We give thanks to God that there was no loss of life and that Bermuda has managed to rebound from this setback as quickly and productively as it has.

Despite the considerable costs directly attributable to Hurricane Emily, Bermuda's economy continues to be strong and the financial outlook for the future remains optimistic. Government anticipates that the Country will be able to make substantial progress on its social agenda.

Government reaffirms its position that there will be no move to independence without the express wish and support of the Bermudian people.

Government is currently seeking more information on the options available to the Country. Towards this end, Government has been in contact with Her Majesty's Government in London and will seek to pursue discussions with the governments of the United States and Canada. The results of these discussions will be disseminated to the public to provide for a more informed consideration of all of the ramifications of Independence.

Recognising the vital importance of maintaining an educational system of the highest standard, Government proposes to establish an education planning team composed of Bermudians representing a broad spectrum of community interests. The team's mandate will be to re-examine the major issues in education and to address concerns which have been expressed by the public.

Government remains committed to providing quality educational facilities through a major rehabilitation programme involving all Government schools. The next phase of The Bermuda College complex should be ready for occupation in July 1988.

The Community Education Programme is an outstanding success and has received international recognition. It continues to be used by a wide cross-section of the community.

Recognising the serious health threat posed to the community by the AIDS virus, the Ministry of Health and Social Services, in addition to other initiatives, is spearheading a series of information programmes designed to heighten awareness of this threat.

The National Alcohol and Drug Agency, through a variety of educational programmes and other initiatives, will continue its campaign to educate people on the dangers of using abusive substances.

The Police, together with Customs, are intensifying their efforts to stem the flow of illegal drugs into Bermuda. As part of this, a joint Police/Customs marine post will be set up at Ordnance Island to control the entry of yachts into Bermuda.

To emphasise the Government's commitment to eliminate illegal drugs, the new Session of Parliament will be invited to consider the Forfeiture of Criminal Assets Bill which is designed to empower the courts to strip drug dealers of their ill-gotten gains.

In a related development, Bermuda is taking steps to become a member of the Customs Enforcement Group covering all Caribbean Zone countries. The Group will establish basic guidelines on cooperation and will facilitate the exchange of information between Customs administrations of the member countries.

Improvements to the public highway system will continue their particular emphasis on resurfacing to ensure the highest standard of safety for all road users.

Housing, given the shortage of land and the high cost of construction, continues to be a major challenge. Government is especially concerned about the problems facing low income families in finding suitable and affordable housing. The report of the Task Force, set up to assess the extent of these problems and to recommend solutions, is expected shortly.

Amongst the anticipated legislative initiatives in this new Session of Parliament are proposals to increase the limits of insurance liability covering injuries to third parties and to create a Motor Insurers Bureau to give greater protection to accident victims not otherwise covered.

The coming year should see the completion of an athletic track and a football pitch at the National Sports Centre. The facility is to be administered by a board of trustees.

To facilitate the construction of a new maximum security prison at the West End, excavation and reclamation works are now being carried out and are due to be completed in 1988. The next phase of improvements at St Brendan's Hospital should also be finished in the coming year.

Despite setbacks due to Hurricane Emily, satisfactory progress is being made on Phase Four of works at the Civil Air Terminal to extend baggage handling and departure facilities.

Government proposes to press ahead with the systematic elimination of all inshore sewage outfalls.

The upswing in tourist arrivals in 1986 has continued in 1987. The strength of tourism is reflected in an impressive 13.5% increase in arrivals over the first half of 1987 when compared to the previous year.

A 17% increase in visitor arrivals during the 1986/1987 Rendezvous Season was recorded and efforts are underway to maintain this interest in Bermuda as a winter destination.

Recognising the importance of international business to Bermuda, Government will continue to support initiatives in this sector of the economy.

Economic indicators point to a strong local economy. Government remains committed to ensuring that the fruits of our current success are fully and fairly shared by all Bermudians.

Regulations for the management of parks and nature reserves will be laid before Parliament in this Session. Management plans for Bermuda's 740 acres of parklands are also being formulated.

A final proposal for the Pembroke Marsh area in the form of a Local Plan designed to create a recreation and open space park and nature reserve will be presented for consideration.

A Building Bill and a new Building Code intended to improve standards of safety and construction will be submitted to Parliament.

Harmonious industrial relations are essential for our community. To maintain this climate of good labour relations, Government will continue the tripartite discussions involving representatives from Government, Employers and Workers.

Two new tenders, together with a new tug, are under construction and scheduled for delivery next year. An additional tug is due by 1990.

Plans are now well advanced to adopt a number of conventions which will promote the growth of the Register of Shipping. New Merchant Shipping Regulations will also be brought forward.

The New Parliament Transport Facility will shortly open with greatly improved administrative and maintenance accommodation. The bus fleet will be augmented by 20 new vehicles next April, with most of these being replacements.

In order to provide for those who are homeless, Government intends to create two additional night shelters for men, to be operated by the Salvation Army and subsidized by Government. Arrangements have also been made to rent additional emergency housing.

The coming into force of The Magistrates Court Amendment Act 1987 will improve the collection of maintenance monies through the courts for children and spouses. The Prison Rules 1980 are to be amended to facilitate the treatment of mentally ill prisoners.

Ratification of the U.S./Bermuda Tax Treaty by the United States Senate remains a priority which Government will continue to pursue.

During the coming year, Government intends to introduce a Land Title Registry in Bermuda. This will provide for the more effective stewardship of land in these Islands as well as a comprehensive record of all lands. The Registry will make the transfer of land from one owner to another much easier than at present.

The Women's Advisory Council has now begun its work and will, in due course, submit recommendations on a wide range of issues affecting women in the home, in the workplace and in the community.

A Boundaries Commission is now carrying out a review of constituency boundaries and will report its findings to Parliament in due course.

Mr Speaker and Members of The Hon House of Assembly:

The Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the next financial year will be laid before you.

Mr President and Members of the Senate:

Mr Speaker and Members of The Hon House of Assembly:

You will be invited in the coming year to consider legislation which will include the following:

The Motor Car Insurance (Third Party Risks) Amendment Bill

The Succession Amendment Bill

The Magistrates Courts Amendment Bill

The Legal Aid Amendment Bill

The Fire Services Amendment Bill

The Public Service Superannuation Amendment Bill

The Building Bill

The Foreiture of Criminal Assets Bill

The Housing Loan Insurance (Mortgage) Amendment Regulations

The Public Service (Delegation of Powers) Regulations

The Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Oil Pollution) Regulations

The Fire Services (Volunteer Firemen) (Fees) Regulations

The Marine Board (Cargo) Amendment Regulations

The Liquefied Petroleum Gases (Transport and Storage) Amendment Regulations

Bermuda's economy has continued to perform satisfactorily in spite of sometimes uncertain economic conditions internationally. Our economic success as well as our continued social and political stability can be attributed to the hard work, loyalty and determination of all our people.

Tradition at this point permits me a few words of my own. May I therefore warmly endorse what is said at the beginning of this speech about the very heartening and effective response by the people and institutions of Bermuda to Hurricane Emily. While all played their part, one must be particularly grateful for the excellent work in their different ways of the Bermuda Regiment and of the Police. Now that the initial clearing up is accomplished, I hope that the national effort will be sustained with the encouragement of all in this Parliament so that the natural beauty of Bermuda can be completely restored. In particular, I commend to you the national clean-up day being organised for 20th November.

May I also say that it is a very great honour to open Parliament today on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen and wish you all well in your work in the coming Session.

Mr President and Members of the Senate:

Mr Speaker and Members of The Hon House of Assembly:

I now declare this Session open and may God guide you in your deliberations.

Dunrossil Governor and Commander-in-Chief

GAZETTE Reaction

32980104 Hamilton *THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English* 7 Nov 87 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text] Yesterday's Speech from the Throne, delivered by the Governor on behalf of the Government to open Parliament, is more remarkable for what it does not say than for the very little it does say.

The things that it does say are really a "holding pattern" of old ideas and a collection of left over legislation.

For instance, a method of giving insurance coverage to accident victims are not otherwise covered has been talked about for some ten years.

Then there's some pie-in-the-sky. It says, "Ratification of the US/Bermuda Tax Treaty by the United States Senate remains a priority which Government will continue to pursue." In reality the changes of ratification are slim. The Senate is now controlled by the Democrats and the Reagan Administration is deeply wounded, without energy or leadership and approaching the end of its term. It is unrealistic to expect that Bermuda will come in for special consideration, no matter what some officials may say.

THE ROYAL GAZETTE has to take some credit for the statement which says that there will be an emphasis on the resurfacing of roads "to ensure the highest standard of safety".

But what bothers us is the lack of any suggestions that Bermuda may be in for problems as a result of the Wall Street crash. Privately we hear people predicting dire consequences but Government has not had the guts to warn people of the real possibility of a bad year ahead. It is almost as if the Speech from the Throne was written during the summer doldrums and no one bothered to update it to take into consideration subsequent events.

Try this passage: "Economic indicators point to a strong local economy." This at a time when hoteliers are very uncertain about what is coming.

Then, tacked on at the end, is the following very curious paragraph.

"Bermuda's economy has continued to perform satisfactorily in spite of sometimes uncertain economic conditions internationally. Our economic success as well as our continued social and political stability can be attributed to the hard work, loyalty and determination of all of our people."

What does that mean? Nothing as far as we can tell. It may even be misleading in that it seems to imply that Bermudians have control of their own economic success, which is rot.

We think that Government should be warning that if the US suffers a severe recession, which, given the downturn in the dollar and the indecision in Washington, now appears to be likely and tourism takes a plunge, it may have to reopen talks and review some recent inflationary wage agreements.

Government had the ideal opportunity to take up the subject where it wrote: "Harmonious industrial relations are essential to our community. To maintain this climate of good labour relations, Government will continue the tripartite discussions involving representatives from Government, employers and workers."

Government should also be warning that non-essential capital projects may have to be set aside since fewer tourists will result in fewer tax dollars and our capital projects are predicated on growing tax dollars, most of them contributed by our tourists.

There seems, instead of warnings, to be some attempt to lead us all to think that everything is rosy now that we pulled together in the days after Emily. There is little recognition that Emily was only the first of two blows.

A Throne Speech is supposed to be a blueprint of what Government plans in the year ahead. It is supposed to tell the public what is coming.

This one tells us that we are playing catch up with some legislation.

We are, at long last, going to "improve the collection of maintenance monies through the courts for children and spouses"...something which has been talked about since the end of World War Two and probably, if anyone remembers, before that.

We are going to promote the growth of the Register of Shipping. What again?

That's the kind of Throne Speech it is. There is not one new idea. There is not one attempt to move into the future.

Text of PLP Reply

32980104 Hamilton *THE ROYAL GAZETTE* in
English 14 Nov 87 p 10

[PLP reply to the Speech from the Throne, delivered by leader of the opposition Frederick Wage to Parliament, 13 November 1987]

[Text] Mr Speaker, again it is my duty as Leader of the Opposition to respond to the United Bermuda Party Government Throne Speech. The task is an unhappy one because there is really nothing new to reply to again this year. To quote *THE ROYAL GAZETTE* editorial of Saturday, November 7, 1987:

"Yesterday's Speech from the Throne delivered by the Governor on behalf of the Government to open Parliament is more remarkable for what it does not say than for the very little it does say.

"The things that it does say are really a 'holding pattern' of old ideas and a collection of left-over legislation."

If I took the narrow view and simply made a response to the Speech, I would only have to stand up and then take my seat. There is nothing new to say about the matters raised in the Speech. The Speech does not reveal any new plans for the governance and forward development of our Country.

It is true to say that the United Bermuda Party Swan administration has no overall plan, no national objectives, no dreams for the future. It is as if the United Bermuda party has been taken over by the money changers, the storekeepers and those without a true vision for Bermuda and her people.

Since 1970 the United Bermuda Party has failed to produce a platform on which they based their government. Because there is no plan, both their members and the general public have been left to pursue their own private objectives. There is not the happy situation when the people are all pulling together to carry out national objectives. It is as if there are 55,000 separate plans all colliding and in conflict with the other.

The people want access to the beaches. The Government has given beaches away and now promises the people synthetic beaches and no access.

The National Trust is trying to preserve the environment, the Government is bent on destroying it.

Education is crying out for action, the Government sets up another committee to study it.

The Government promises, on the one hand, it will not move towards Independence without the expressed wish and support of the Bermudian people. In the next breath,

the Government admits that it has been in contact with the UK, the US and the Canadian governments about Independence. The results of these discussions will be disseminated to the people.

After spending \$75 million on housing there are still people without adequate, affordable housing. The emergency housing is over-crowded.

Mr Speaker, on and on goes the picture of a Government in total disharmony with the people. The Government declares war on drugs while at the same time provides a fertile environment for the creation of drug addicts and drug pushers by its failure to provide a comprehensive youth programme and operating facilities.

Mr Speaker, we are like a ship without a rudder, drifting about without any direction or hope of securing direction under the present United Bermuda Party Government.

Mr Speaker, we do agree with the Speech in its praise for everyone's efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Emily. When given a sense of national purpose Bermudians are willing and able to respond in a positive way.

While praise is due to the people, there is a clear need for a better emergency plan and wider knowledge of the plan. Bermudians took to the streets on the afternoon of Emily and hindered the early clearing of the roads. A wide knowledge of the plan and everyone's role in the plan, could have prevented this activity.

Mr Speaker, there are other factors of the emergency which need discussion and they include availability of equipment, communications before and after disasters, and manpower.

Mr Speaker, we are very concerned about the Government's handling of the Independence issue. I noted earlier that there is conflict in the Speech regarding Government's intention.

Our concern is two-fold.

Firstly, Government is having discussions with foreign governments about Independence without any mandate from the people. The position is made worse when the United Bermuda Party Government has been historically against Independence and successive administrations have campaigned against Independence.

The Government has no authority to discuss matters of defence, foreign relations and such matters with anyone. It is deceitful to have these discussions and at the same time tell the people they will "not move to Independence without their express approval".

Our second concern is that the Government is conducting discussions without involvement of the Opposition. Constitutional reform is not purely a matter for the Government of the day, it is a matter for all political interests, especially the loyal Opposition.

We are amazed that this Government has behaved in such a dictatorial fashion and we are further amazed that the United Kingdom Government would encourage such undemocratic and illegitimate behaviour.

The path to constitutional reform has been clearly laid out in that Bermuda has had two Constitutional Conference which have brought about constitutional advancement. On both occasions, bipartisan discussions were held to arrive at a consensus as to what changes would be suggested and how they would be carried out.

In 1966 the move to internal self-government was made after Sir Henry Tucker chaired a joint select committee to discuss the move. The Committee was bipartisan. The Conference which followed was attended by both of Bermuda's political parties and a mixed group of Independents and the British Government.

This Conference succeeded in hammering out an Internal Self Government Constitution.

In 1979 a second Constitutional Conference was held at the Warwick Camp in Bermuda. Attending were delegates from the United Bermuda Party and the Progressive Labour Party and the British Government with the Governor in the chair.

This conference came about as a result of an ad hoc committee encouraged by the Governor and agreed to by the United Bermuda Party and Progressive Labour Party following the 1977 Disturbances. The ad hoc committee set up the Pitt Commission which in turn recommended a Constitutional Conference. The ad hoc committee then set about setting up a conference with the United Kingdom Government.

Mr Speaker, we are satisfied that there is ample precedent for partisan discussion on Independence before any moves are made especially with foreign governments and more especially when the United Bermuda Party Government has no mandate from the people.

Mr Speaker, there is a need for a Joint Select Committee to sit down and discuss the Bermuda Constitution and Independence, and together collect the information required. Once the matters are all on the table, political parties should adopt constitutional planks in their election platforms. An election should then be held with each party putting forward its plans for constitutional reform and Independence. The party which wins the election

should then lead the Country at an Independence Constitutional Conference attended by the same interests that formed the Joint Select Committee. At this Conference an Independence constitution would then be hammered out.

A date would then be set for Independence. An election would then be held under the new constitution to determine which party would govern upon Independence.

The above steps are well known by students of constitutional law. The British Government has participated in numerous such conferences.

Mr Speaker, we have now made our position very clear and we intend to take steps to make our feelings known to the British Government.

Education

Mr Speaker, the Speech promised another Committee to look into Education. It promises the renovation of school plants, there is no need for another committee to study education. Each Minister has instituted a study instead of putting into action recommendations of previous studies or formulating his own policies.

The Progressive Labour Party has favoured comprehensive education since 1963. Recently an ABUT report recommended comprehensive education. Last week a former Minister for Education recommended comprehensive education.

We believe that it is time that Government bit the bullet and carried out the reforms required to bring to an end selective entry into secondary schools.

Many schools were in dire need of repairs. Since Hurricane Emily these same schools are in worse shape. The Berkeley Institute has had to close their assembly hall and library because of a need for repairs. St George's Secondary Principal has cried out for a new facility and is deserving of quick action so that the good work done there will not be lost.

Our children will not have equal opportunities as long as some government schools have inadequate plant facilities and environments that are not conducive to learning.

Drugs

The Premier has called for a war on drugs. There is unanimous agreement amongst the parties that drugs are evil and must be stamped out. Government has had the benefit of the Archibald Report with its many recommendations. NADA has been created and yet there is still no clear plan of action. We are aware of the Police activity at St Monica's Mission area and Court Street. While we support this activity, we do not believe that

such activity amounts to a full declaration of war. We could not help but note that on the day following the Police raids, the North Village Club was crying out for proper facilities.

The declaration of war on drugs must be total. It must include as much prevention as cure. We must mobilise the entire society in a genuine action plan designed to rid Bermuda of the drug menace. It is not enough to confiscate assets of drug pushers or to give pushers life imprisonment, we must take those steps necessary to prevent our children from feeling that weed, coke and heroin are quick solutions to their problems.

The Economy

Mr Speaker, the comments in the Speech about the economy are puzzling to say the least. The Government says that economic indicators point to a strong local economy. Recently there has been a crash on the Stock Market which has led to strong fears of a deep recession in the United States.

Hoteliers are reporting cancelled bookings and are fearful of a decline next year.

At the same time the Government talks about "ensuring that the fruits of our current success are fully and fairly shared by all Bermudians."

Mr Speaker, it is our view that Bermudians ought to be warned that economic caution is required until the dust settles.

Tax Treaty

Despite the optimistic prediction by the US Consul General that the Tax Treaty will be ratified, we in the Progressive Labour Party think otherwise. With the passing of each month the Reagan Administration becomes more "lame duck". Add to this, the low esteem now held for the Administration it would seem realistic to forget the Tax Treaty.

Public Works & Housing

We are grateful to THE ROYAL GAZETTE for drawing Government's attention to the state of the roads. THE GAZETTE at least has been able to secure a promise that roads will be resurfaced.

Earlier this year the Minister of Works promised to set up a special team within the Public Works to start work on the many private roads in need of special attention. For years the Government has promised the people in Pembroke East and Devonshire North roads which provide access for emergency vehicles.

Mr Speaker, the taxpayer has invested \$75 million in Government housing. He has the right to expect that those most in need would be housed by now.

Instead, Mr Speaker, we have the spectacle where emergency housing is over-crowded, families are being evicted and the poor struggle under the burden of high rents.

The Government's answer to the problem is to set up another task force to study the situation.

It has been clear since the Gibbons era that Government's housing programme was aimed not at the poor, but at those persons who could afford to pay at least \$750 per month either in rent or mortgage payments.

Mr Speaker, we must reexamine the present programme and see to it that those houses in the pipeline go to those people in greatest need. Further, we must ensure that future projects reach down to the very bottom. To do otherwise is to put political expediency ahead of human need.

Mr Speaker, when the Government first introduced the idea of an incinerator, the Progressive Labour Party expressed grave concern about its impact on the environment. My colleagues and I were alarmed that Devonshire North was picked as the site for the plant.

We are pleased that the Government is rethinking the plans for the incinerator. We are, however, alarmed to hear that once again millions of dollars will be wasted because the Minister did not listen.

Mr Speaker, you will recall the thousands of dollars wasted by this same Minister in the planning of the National Stadium.

Mr Speaker, the People's Movement have called for access to the beaches. Government's answer is there will be no greater access provided instead they will build artificial beaches.

Mr Speaker, it must be clear to you now when I say that the present administration is without a programme and that they are engaged in crisis management. It certainly makes a great deal of sense for Government to take the necessary steps to gain access to all beaches as a viable part of its parks and recreational land programme.

Mr Speaker, such a programme would speak of orderly development of the Country by a government with a national plan and purpose.

We know that Mr Bascome at Tobacco Bay will be pleased to have the inshore sewage outfall eliminated. While the residents of the Pembroke dump hope that the Pembroke Marsh proposal is indeed final.

Mr Speaker, we are pleased to hear that the Minister of Health now considers the AIDS virus a serious threat. We had hoped that the speech would have included some comments as to how the Ministry would assist STAR with their hospice.

Mr Speaker, the transportation system is in a terrible mess. Recently a strike was averted by some slight of hand between the Premier, the Minister of Transport and the President of the Bermuda Taxi Operators. Once again instead of a comprehensive move in transport, the Government proposed piece meal solutions.

Mr Speaker, the Government has missed the opportunity to introduce new areas of development. The speech promised to ensure that the fruits of our current successes are fully and fairly shared. There is however no word as to how this might be accomplished. There is obviously a need for a study of our tax system to insure that additional revenues necessary for Independence and future upgrading of our social services, especially care for the elderly.

The handicapped have complained for years about their exclusion from the Human Rights Legislation. A protest at the Opening of Parliament evoked a promise of relief this session.

We believe that there is a real need for a study of the needs of handicapped people in our community. Access to buildings (public and private), transportation, housing, opportunities in education and employment are but a few of the issues which require attention.

Now that the sports facility at the National Stadium is nearing completion, the Government could have revealed in the Throne Speech its plans for the use of the facility. Thus far, there has been emphasis on brick and mortar, now it is time for the programmes. The opportunity has been missed.

Mr Speaker, I have tried to bring a freshness to our response while at the end to suggest one or two programmes which might have indicated some forward thinking on the part of Government.

Mr Speaker, one gets the feeling that there is no one minding the people's business. Everyone in Government seems busy taking care of their own private affairs.

Mr Speaker, we can only hope that the people are taking careful notes of Government's management of their affairs and at the next election they will vote for a government willing and able to put their affairs first and provide the kind of government which takes care of the whole man.

November 13, 1987

/9274

Cut in Capital 'Estimates' Brings Crunch in Wages

32980105a Roseau *THE NEW CHRONICLE* in English 23 Oct 87 p 1

[Article by Morris Cyrille]

[Text] Wage increases for domestic workers, labourers, shop and store clerks will be a matter of concern to Parliamentarians when the House of Assembly meets Monday.

A question scheduled to be asked by Opposition Senator Irvin Knight to Labour Minister Brian Alleyne, will probe government's plans to raise the level of domestic workers from a \$24 minimum

This question arises at a time when daily paid workers of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife in the Ministry of Agriculture have had their hours of work reduced resulting in a 37.5% cut in their wages.

The majority of the 50 workers with the Forestry Division receive \$2.71 an hour or \$21.68 a day in an eight hour day and are now working five hours a day.

This state of affairs which commenced September 16, is a direct result of a 43% cut in the capital estimates for the financial year 1987/88 on the preceding year 1986/87. The estimates were cut from \$350,000 to \$200,000. The Civil Service Association General Secretary, Arthur Smith told the New Chronicle that the failure by the Permanent Secretary to explain the basis for the determination of \$200,000 for the 1987/88 financial year is of great concern to the association.

In a meeting held with the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture Mr Smith said the PS was unable to give an answer as to why the budgetary estimates were reduced.

Mr Smith said their union was informed of the reduction in hours in a letter dated October 14, and signed by the PS, Ministry of Agriculture.

Besides the reduced hours there were two other options, "one, a reduced workforce and two, employing workers on an alternative basis." The chosen option seeks to ensure that all workers remain employed and "thereby permit workers time off on a regular basis so that some form of alternative employment could be pursued on a regular basis."

However, Mr Smith said the workers were not consulted and neither was the association. Workers were just informed by the ministry, he maintained.

"In the circumstances the association is left to wonder whether the government or the public service administration has ever stopped to consider, let alone calculate,

the impact the decision to reduce an 8 hour day's pay packet of \$21.68 by any percentage what-so-ever would have on the quality of life of the said workers?" Mr Smith said.

"Are these authorities aware and sensitive to the significance and value of \$21.68 (earned after a day's work) to the survival concerns to the survival concerns of these poor workers barely subsisting on the poverty line?"

During the joint meeting held on Friday October 16, he said the association made representation to the effect and emphasized, this situation "imposes severe financial and psychological hardship and suffering."

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Plans Outlined for Industrial Development Projects

32980106b Roseau *THE NEW CHRONICLE* in English 30 Oct 87 p 3

[Text] The Industrial Development Corporation will administer 70.85 acres of land for industrial development as a means of job creation and of developing the skills of young people in Dominica.

Agricultural Minister Charles Maynard replying to a question from member for Grand Bay said, 23.8 acres would be at Portsmouth; 11.7 at Melville Hall; 5.3 at Castle Bruce; 20 at Hartford Estate/Jimmit; and 10 at Geneva Estate.

Th Minister said Government has been attempting to create jobs in the rural areas through its policy of diversification into agro-industry through the Youth Skills Training Project and through its land distribution policy.

Meanwhile government plans for subdividing land at Brandy for the benefit of Portsmouth farmers who have worked on that land for 10 years will be completed in 1988.

State lands will be allocated as far as possible on the basis of freehold tenure to persons who have demonstrated the will and ability to develop such lands.

/9274

Charles Comments on Regional Trade Pictures

32980105b Port-of-Spain *TRINIDAD GUARDIAN* in English 26 Nov 87 p 16

[Text] Dominica Prime Minister Eugenia Charles called Tuesday for a get-up-and-get attitude to replace what she described as "the persistent import mentality" of Caribbean business people.

Miss Charles, calling herself "unashamedly and consistently a private sector person," was addressing a dinner given in her honour at the Hilton by the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

She said she saw an "urgent need for attitudinal change" in the Caribbean sector, specifying that she wished business people to show greater entrepreneurship and more willingness to take risks, with the aim of saving foreign exchange.

Revenue Base

Miss Charles said that despite generous state support, the Caribbean private sector has been reluctant to go into manufacturing and agro-processing.

She said there were lessons for all Caribbean businesses to be learnt from the Trinidad and Tobago experience over the last ten years. Between the late 1970s and the early 1980s, Trinidad and Tobago had been "enviable" growth and expansion, she said.

It had, however, been "Government-led" growth, Miss Charles noted, adding that its impact had been concentrated in just the construction, distribution and services sectors.

"Business was unable to transfer the momentum to non-growth sectors such as agriculture and agribusiness," she said. Nor had business been able to control costs and to become competitive enough to export, she added.

The Trinidad and Tobago experience had shown that "fiscal-led" growth was not sustainable over the long-term, and not even over the medium term, the Dominican leader observed. This experience underscored the weakness in promoting growth in the Caribbean on the basis of windfalls—whether oil or bananas—but not on real expansion of the revenue base.

Miss Charles said the responsibility for transferring growth from fast sectors like construction and services to slow sectors belonged to the private sector and not to the Government. "If some sectors stall while others continue to grow, it means the private sector is not performing its enterprising function," she said.

Real Expansion

She criticized the Caribbean private sector for depending on protected home markets, and for pressuring Governments to apply such protection. "How can you successfully fight to get a piece of the pie abroad when depend on protection at home?" she asked, noting Caribbean countries do not shield their athletes from foreign competition before sending them to compete abroad. [Quotation as published]

Referring to the "significant strides" which she said Caribbean Governments have been making toward closer integration, she called on the private sector [to] seek out new ideas, initiatives, and ventures, and to be willing to take risks.

Price Quotations

She said Dominica had asked Trinidad and Tobago for steel price quotations, but replies had come more quickly from non-Caribbean than they had from this country. She also said though Dominica was able to provide fruit juice concentrates, such products continued to be imported into the region from Latin America.

Miss Charles said need remained for further rationalisation of regional institutions, and private sector people should consider it their business to see if the institutions are working. She said before seeking wider Caribbean integration, there was need to ensure greater effectiveness of integration in trade industry and services.

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MBPM's Radix Defends People's Right to Revolution

32980107a St Georges THE GRENADA
NEWSLETTER in English 24 Oct 87 pp 6, 11

[Text] Mr Kendrick Radix Former Minister of Legal Affairs in the Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG), and Political Leader of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM), said at a press conference on October 15th that, when conditions become too oppressive, it is the sovereign right of people to rise up and demand an end to oppression.

Right

"When all paths to democratic institutions are denied people", he said, "it is their sovereign right to rise up and rebel and, in keeping with that universal mandate, I uphold that right of peoples everywhere. When all paths of legitimate, constitutional, parliamentary and other institutions are blocked, one of the rights that they have within their sovereignty as a people is the right to rise up".

The United States exercised that right when they felt the British were oppressing them and it took them 12 years after that to have a constitution, he said. During the American Civil War, he continued, newspapers were closed down and thousands of people were executed with summary trial.

Revolution

"Revolution is in the historic arsenal, even of the United States," Mr Radix said, "which is the most conservative and reactionary a Governmental institution today".

The Ex-PRG Minister reminded the Press that October 19th is "the fourth anniversary of the murders of Maurice Bishop and the other outstanding Grenada revolutionaries who were murdered with him".

Split

His reference was to incidents of 19th October 1983 when a split in the PRG led to the execution of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, members of his Cabinet and others, and when over 100 Grenadians are alleged to have been gunned down by the Peoples Revolutionary Army.

"It is also the anniversary of the invasion of our country by the armed forces of the United States and other Caribbean Countries which held on to their coat tails to give colour to the invasion," he said.

Providing a background for the killing of Bishop and his colleagues, Mr Radix said counter-revolution, in the form of "ultra-leftism", rose up inside Bishop's New Jewel Movement, "murdered its democratic leadership and sought to install itself by killing the people and murdering our revolution".

Murder

Mr Radix said the ultra-left elements had been led by ex-PRG Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard who, with his wife Phyllis and 12 others was convicted of murder last December and now awaits the hearing of an Appeal.

"These elements, led by Bernard Coard and company", he said, were objectively the agents of United States imperialism whose desire it has always been to turn back democratic revolutions....."

Grenada has been thrown back by at least 50 years by the events of October 1983, Mr Radix said, and, perhaps, the most profound tragedy of it all is that the United States, "the main enemy of our people who seek to enslave us yet again", has been bestowed the title of "rescuer".

Rule

The ex-PRG Minister was critical of present conditions in Grenada under the New National Government of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize and said that now that constitutional rule has been restored, it has ushered in a "new round of slavery"

"The rights and freedoms that our people enjoy during the revolutionary years through trade union democracy", he said, "are gone".

Deaths

Mr Radix called on the Grenada Government to make October 19th a national holiday. That date, he said, symbolises a living testament of the high moral quality of "Maurice Bishop and the martyrs" who accepted their deaths without squealing or compromise of their values of democracy but looked death in the eye.

That is why, he said, they live forever in the hearts and minds of all freedom loving people everywhere and who will always shine as stars in glory in the history of Grenada.

The MBPM seeks to continue the mission of justice for the poor, the worker and the oppressed, Mr Radix said, and he asked the press to spread the message that MBPM is committed to the national liberation of Grenada.

Revolutionary

In pursuit of that mission and in fulfillment of that commitment, he said, MBPM does not rule out the possibility of, once more, taking the revolutionary road.

**VOICE Editorial Questions Activities of
Foreigners**

32980107b St Georges *THE GRENADIAN VOICE*
in English 14 Nov 87 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text] The status of foreigners in this country is just one of the many things which needs to be clarified and straightened out and we probably need a task force under a Minister of Mobilisation (even if we have to borrow that title from the PRG) or some such thing to put our house in order in so many way.

It was interesting to hear the Prime Minister speak last week-end, for example, about the foreigners who, through short practices, nearly deprived (defrauded?) the government of three quarters of [a] million dollars of revenue. We venture to suggest that this is just the tip of the iceberg and it is important that the proper machinery be set up to monitor these businesses (and certain local ones as well) thoroughly, ensure that they pay their toll and don't just cream off excessive profits from the community, while engaged in unfair and dishonest business practices which put the honest traders at a disadvantage.

We are particularly disturbed at reports we have recieved of certain importers who are alleged to have certain customs officers "in their pockets," as it were, and a five thousand dollar pay-off is reportedly not uncommon for a less than thorough examination of a container of cargo.

Let us make it clear that we have no objection to foreigners coming here to do business. Indeed, we welcome them for the new ideas they can bring as well as the injection of new capital. We just wish that the whole matter can be properly regulated. In no well organised community can foreigners simply walk in and put their "shingle" and start to operate. In other words, instead of having to close down Roti shops or any other, we should have clear guidelines in place which would prevent them from being opened without permission.

Another thing that we need to guard against is that we do not allow a Fijian situation to develop in our business community where the foreigner is going to outnumber the local. Some of them are proud to trumpet the fact that they have lived twenty and more years in the community, and feel that this entitles them to be considered as true Grenadian. But look around and see what they hve done for the community. They have grown fat on the land, have been permitted to acquire prime properties, but what do they put back into the community? When you get right down to it, most of them put very little, and many, nothing at all, although there are a few, all too rare, exceptions. Too few have become really "good citizens." Too few have come to really belong.

In order to start righting the balance, we urge that government, and the lending agencies, embark on a programme of special and generous concessions to locals to enable them to establish a stronger role for Grenadians in the business and industrial sectors of the country.

But there is another side of the regulating we need to do; and that is that when we decide that we want or need someone here to help us—for whatever reason: because of their expertise, their knowledge, their willingness to invest capital, whatever—we must quickly put them at their ease and help them to get settled down with a clear understanding of what both their rights and their obligations are:

What, for example, is the status of the foreigners at the television station? Are they needed here? Is government breaking the law by permitting them to work without work permits? Is it right and fair and even wise for instance, to embarrass the engineer, who helps to keep the station on the air, to the point where he feels compelled to terminate his association with the station and cause others, knowing this, to be difficult to entice?

But for whatever reason, foreigners are in our midst, we must make a point of making them feel welcome with the Grenadian charm of yesteryear. There is too much hostility being meted out to strangers. It is particularly true of tourists and our mportant tourist trade can be hampered by this deliberate, destabilising harassment. It is high time that a strong hand be taken in the matter, especially where it is most rampant—near the Ghetto on the Carenage.

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Government Comments on Protests, Role of Military

Police on 'Brutality' Charge

*32980109 Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE
in English 15 Nov 87 pp 1, 5*

[Text] A senior spokesman for the Police has commented on two Press releases which were put out in connection with an incident outside the Public Buildings On Wednesday, November 11, 1987, which resulted in the arrest of a number of persons. Both statements were dated November 12, 1987. One was by the Guyana Human Rights Association (GHRA) and the other by Mr George Lamming, a Barbadian citizen, who was one of the persons arrested.

A press release from the Ministry of Information yesterday said that the spokesman rejected the allegations of brutality levelled against the Police in the said statements and described them as self-serving and obviously intended to influence public opinion and also the course of any trial resulting from any charges that might be laid in connection with the incident.

The release continued: With respect to the GHRA's release, he pointed out that some of the persons arrested were either members of, or closely associated with, the said Association, some of whose members played a prominent role in the events surrounding the incident.

In commenting on Mr Lamming's statement, he said that since his arrival Mr Lamming had left a trail of deception in his wake. Mr Lamming had told the Immigration Authorities that, while in Guyana, he would stay with Dr Frank Williams. In point of fact Dr Frank Williams was out of the country since September 25, 1987, and has not yet returned. Mr Lamming is in fact a guest of Andaiye, Dr Williams' daughter, a well-known activist of the WPA, with whom he seems to have struck up a very close friendship. Andaiye was one of the persons arrested.

Mr Lamming also told Immigration Authorities that he had come to Guyana on holiday. In fact, since his arrival he has identified himself with partisan politics through his association with activities of the WPA and certain prominent members of that political party. His presence outside the Public Buildings on the day in question was in keeping with the general pattern of his conduct.

Further Police Reaction

*32980109 Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE
in English 14 Nov 87 p 1*

[Text] A foreign exchange shortage has caused a delay in the Police acquiring metal identification numbers for some of its officers, according to Commissioner Balram Raghubir.

He explained that there were a number of Police Officers who had not been issued with the numbers to wear as part of their uniform.

The newer members of the Force, in particular those with five-digit numbers, are without identification numbers.

And responding to an allegation following Wednesday's arrests Cde Raghubir said the presence of Police without identification numbers outside Public Buildings had nothing to do with a campaign of violence against anyone.

He appreciates that the identification numbers are necessary and the situation should be corrected within one month.

Army's Role

*32980109 Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS
in English 28 Nov 87 p 18*

[Text] Georgetown, Friday (CANA)—The acting head of Guyana's military, reacting to suggestions that the army fears civil unrest if the Guyana dollar drops further in value, says it intends to stick to its constitutional role.

Acting Chief of Staff Brigadier Joe Singh was commenting on an article in the STABROEK NEWS newspapers which said that some army officers were concerned about the "social repercussions" of commercial bank recommendations for an increase in the "free" rate of exchange for the local dollar.

The banks already pay more than twice the Central Bank's official rate of exchange for three specified foreign currencies at their so-called free currency windows.

The proposed increase, the STABROEK NEWS said, is intended to make the banks' rates more competitive with those being offered on the parallel market.

In a letter to the paper, a copy of which was made available to CANA, Singh said the reference to the army and security forces was "not only irresponsible and mischievous but positively dangerous."

He said allegations such as those made in the article are "calculated to undermine public confidence and affect internal stability."

He said under the Guyana Constitution the army and security forces have a specific role to play and are subject to the civil power.

Jail for WPA Activists

32980109 Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS
in English 4 Dec 87 p 14

[Text] Georgetown, Thursday (CANA)—Two female members of the opposition Working People's Alliance (WPA) today opted to go to jail rather than each post a G\$200 bail ordered by a city magistrate.

Karen Desouza and Andaiye, together with six other persons including Barbadian writer George Lamming, were charged separately by the Guyana police with obstruction to a public way and obstructing a peace officer, acting in the execution of his duty.

The charges stemmed from an incident outside Parliament here on November 11 when police contending that a number of persons were obstructing movement on the pavement, prevented a prayer service planned to mark a 10-day fast led by WPA co-leader Eusi Kwayana, from being held.

When the matter was called up before Magistrate Burch Smith, two of the accused persons—Lamming and Ilene Rodzik—did not turn up but senior counsel Doodnauth Singh representing Lamming said his client was interested in returning to Guyana to face trial but he had not been served any summons by the police.

The other accused persons all pleaded not guilty to the charges and the magistrate placed each of them on \$200 bail.

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Additional Reportage on Venezuelan President's Visit

Speeches at State Dinner

32980108a Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE
in English 18 Nov 87 p 5

[Text] Programmes for co-operation between Venezuela and Guyana already set in place, have been proceeding satisfactorily and Guyana is completely satisfied with the way in which relations between the two countries have been development.

Asserting this at a State Dinner Monday night, in honour of President Jaime Lusinchi of Venezuela, President Desmond Hoyte declared that under existing arrangements, Guyana's petroleum needs have been supplied and Venezuelan goods ordered under a line of credit facility have been delivered.

He added that there has also been fruitful collaboration in the exchange of material and personnel from the professional and student bodies of universities in Guyana and Venezuela and he gave other examples of

co-operation between the two countries. Among these, he identified programmes of functional co-operation in the fields of health, agri-science, technology and training.

President Hoyte referred to the talks between himself and the visiting Head of State, which began Monday, as very interesting and said he sincerely hoped that the discussions would not only give greater impulse to established programmes, but also stimulate the search for new and innovative approaches that could make co-operation arrangements between the two countries more effective and fruitful.

Cde Hoyte said that both Guyana and Venezuela are blessed with rich and extensive resources which are in many ways complementary, which makes co-operation between the two countries both desirable and possible. He added that a joint commission is expected to meet shortly to organise, stimulate and facilitate joint endeavours between Guyana and Venezuela to quicken the pace and improve the quality of their national development.

Cde Hoyte said that agreements concluded during his visit to the Spanish-speaking republic earlier this year provided a framework within which the two countries could work together more effectively for mutual advantage in the economic, cultural and other fields. She said the belief was shared that by such collaborative efforts, 'we could best overcome the limitations of the past and consolidate a relationship of enduring and mutually reinforcing friendship that would bring ever-increasing benefits to all our peoples.'

Some of the major political and economic developments in the hemisphere and in the world at large were also outlined by Cde Hoyte as he sought to give a picture of the crises against which the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean were fighting to stabilise their economies and to maintain their political independence.

Cde Hoyte said that in the face of these difficulties, the Latin American and Caribbean people have not been passive spectators, and that Guyanese have followed with great interest the Venezuelan Government's efforts to keep its economy on an even keel and to maintain its developmental thrust.

He spoke of the Quito Declaration and Plan of Action of 1983, the Cartagena Meeting of 1984 and the Guatemala Accord and Caracas Meeting of this year, as ways in which the countries of the Region are drawing closer together to combined their resources to deal with common problems and common concerns. The Guyana President extended his best wishes for satisfactory and constructive results from the meeting of Presidents to be held in Mexico on November 28 and 28.

At the end of his address, President Hoyte proposed a toast to President Lusinchi and all members of his visiting delegation and to the Government and people of

the Republic of Venezuela, 'to further consolidation of the bonds of friendship between the Government and people of Guyana and the Government and people of the Republic of Venezuela.'

In his reply to Cde Hoyte's speech, the Head-of-State of the neighbouring republic endorsed the remarks made by his Guyanese counterpart, noting that Guyana and Venezuela have similar policies on a number of issues.

These include decolonisation, the democratic self-determination of peoples, the struggle against apartheid and other forms of racial discrimination, the independence of Namibia, drug trafficking and efforts to achieve a fairer and more just world economic order.

President Lusinchi said that the similar views shared on these important issues have benefited the favourable development in relations between the two countries.

He said that Venezuela has paid particular attention to Guyana's involvement in the Non-Aligned Movement and appreciates its position on peace negotiations in Central America and its ongoing backing for the initiatives of the Contadora Group and the Support Group.

The Venezuelan President referred to the continent's growing democratisation process which, he said, has expedited the flow of ideas among the Contadora and Support Group countries.

"From the outset of the democratic era, Venezuela has shown a keen interest in its relations with the Caribbean countries. Two thousand, eight hundred kilometres of Caribbean coast might alone explain this interest. However, there is more to it than that. We are linked to the Caribbean peoples by historical, economical, political and cultural bonds, bonds of solidarity and common interests, co-operation and mutual understanding. In other words, Venezuela is, and feels a part of the Caribbean. And it is irreversible," the President declared.

He added that despite economic difficulties, Venezuela has always striven to maintain existing links in the fields of economic co-operation, cultural exchange, ongoing work by the Venezuelan Institute for Cultural Co-operation, training of human resources improved infrastructure and better health conditions.

He said that to the best of its ability his country had fostered the integration of the Caribbean countries as an important step towards solving their serious economic problems. President Lusinchi added that as Caribbean countries in the American continent, Guyana and Venezuela are expected to work together to foster integration and political peace in the region.

Referring to Cde Hoyte's visit to his country earlier this year, President Lusinchi spoke of agreements reached then and the subsequent implementation of their mandates which, he said, are proof of the positive course the

two countries have embarked upon. The agreements include the elimination of visa requirements for certain types of passports, the suppression and control of the abuse and illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the creation of the Venezuelan-Guyanese Economic, Cultural, and Technical Co-operation Commission.

He declared that the two countries must continue to explore new ways of co-operation and promote ideas in order to consolidate their bonds of friendship and heighten collaboration in a broad, diverse and beneficial manner.

The Venezuelan President then returned Cde Hoyte's gesture in proposing a toast, to 'our common destiny as Caribbean and Latin American countries to the prosperity of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, to the success of your exacting duties and to your personal good health and good fortune.'

Remarks at Luncheon

32980108a Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE
in English 18 Nov 87 pp 4-5

[Text] Extraordinary possibilities for immediate and long-term joint development initiatives now exist between Guyana and Venezuela, President Jaime Lusinchi has said.

Speaking at a special luncheon yesterday the visiting President pointed to the potential of this "magnificent land," the close proximity of Venezuela and the "complementary" state of markets there, as some of the basic conditions existing for the pursuit of such ventures.

The current international connections of Guyana can also create access to other markets, he said. Reaffirming his country's support in the search for such initiatives, Dr Lusinchi noted: "We would also be able to use...the manpower in Guyana, which is perhaps less costly, but as certainly as intelligent and able as that of other countries."

Responding to an address by Chairman of the President's Advisory Committee on the Private Sector, Mike Brassington, who hosted the luncheon, the Venezuelan President called for greater use of the \$15m (US) line of credit agreed on in March this year. The 10-year agreement which was signed during President Desmond Hoyte's visit to Venezuela, covers the export of all Venezuelan goods and services, except "traditional" items.

So far \$750,000 (US) has been used. The Venezuelan leader said that although the line of credit is based on "what you know about our products" and the "production and quality" of such items, further use should be made of the facility.

He pointed to the efforts by his country to help Guyana obtain credit including aid from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), of which Venezuela is a member, to develop the agricultural sector. Dr Lusinchi also referred to the possibility of Guyana obtaining credit from the closely-connected International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

He alluded to President Hoyte's visit to Venezuela as having "left a very deep imprint" on that country.

Cde Brassington, said, that the time is ripe for Guyana and Venezuela to further collaborate, he said, adding that Guyana has access to various international markets including Canada, through CARIBCAN, Europe, through the Lome agreements and the Caribbean through Caricom. Guyana also hopes to gain further opportunities through the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) in the near future.

Cde Brassington also spoke of the possibility of investment in both countries. Locally the development of the rice industry will mean the procurement of machines and equipment, while Guyana can satisfy the Venezuelan demand for timber. He proposed investment in semi-precious stones, kaolin and bicycle manufacturing and said that financial inputs could be obtained from Venezuela for the setting up of related industries.

While pointing to the foreign exchange shortage as a major problem, the Private Sector Committee Chairman suggested agreement be reached on duty-free concessions for both countries.

Meanwhile, private and public sector representatives from the Venezuelan delegation have expressed optimism for future joint ventures between Guyana and Venezuela.

Magaly de Perez of the Venezuelan Export Association said that the time is ripe for the examination of further trade possibilities. She said that there is much scope for investment in semi-precious stones and timber, but warned that miracles cannot be accomplished in a short time.

President of the Institute for Foreign Trade in Venezuela, a public agency, Dr Eduardo Mayobre spoke of the possibility of stimulating private sector imports from both sides, and said that practical studies of proposals will have to be made before the reaching of any agreement.

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Trades & Labor Union Prepares for Annual Conference

Report on Agenda

32980110 Basseterre *THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN*
in English 24 Oct 87 p 1

[Text] The 48th Annual Conference of the St Kitts Nevis Trades & Labour Union is scheduled to get on the way here tomorrow morning, Sunday October 25, at 10 o'clock.

The Conference held at the Union's headquarters, Masses House, Basseterre, will see the Union's President Comrade Lee Moore delivering the customary President's Address.

The feature address is to be delivered by Mr Nigel Harper, President of the Barbados National Union of Public Workers.

The Conference will also receive and consider the Report of the Executive Committee, the Financial Report by the Comrade Tresurer and reports from the various sections of the Union.

More than 250 delegates representing the several sections of the Union and its affiliated organisations are expected to attend the Conference, scheduled to last about 8 hours in working sessions.

Some 70 Resolutions are listed for consideration and ratification by the Conference.

They include calls for the establishment of (a) an Industrial Court in th Federation and (b) a Research Unit in the help of the ILO to provide the Union or the government with valid information of any company or individual entrepreneur wishing to do business on the island; also for increases in the End of Crop Bonus, the Dull Season Bonus, the Christmas Bonus and a general wage increase for SSMC workers. Another calls for the total abolution of the 2% Social Services Levy imposed on sugar workers.

The vast majority, however, focus on wages and conditions of work in St Kitts, particularly at the industrial plants.

The Conference will end with the Election of Officers and the full Executive Committee of the Union for the next year.

The outgoing officers are:

Comrades: Lee Moore—President; St John Payne—1st Vice President; Walford Gumbs—2nd Vice President; Joseph N. France—General Secretary; Fidel O'Flaherty—Asst General Secretary; and Fitzroy Bryant—Treasurer.

Union Prospects

32980110 Basseterre *THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN*
in English 24 Oct 87 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] Tomorrow, the St Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union will hold its 48th Annual Conference.

This newspaper, which is the organ of the St Kitts-Nevis Trades & Labour Union is proud to note the event and to salute the Union and its officers and members.

Ever since 1980 a vicious onslaught has been launched against the Trades and Labour Union.

Government ministers have issued policy statements that they were out to destroy the Union.

The Union which traditionally used Warner Park on Labour Day in connection with its celebrations was denied the use of the Park by ministerial edict.

Although the Union took the matter to Court and won a declaration that it was entitled to the use of the Park, the government frustrated the legal victory.

The government lodged an appeal and lost the appeal before the Court of Appeal. The government was ordered to pay costs both in the High Court and the Court of Appeal. That was 1980.

For over 7 years the government just completely ignored the Court order and denied the Union the fruits of its legal victory.

Appeals to the Attorney General and the Governor General were in vain.

In an effort to get the money the Union sought an order of mandamus against the Attorney General i.e. an order compelling the government to pay the money.

The Court ruled it had no legal authority to compel payment of the money. The Court ordered the Union to pay costs. the Union has filed a Notice of Appeal.

The government made several moves to undermine the finances and standing of the Union.

In the first place they purported to promte and to have passed a law forbidding the check-off system whereby employers on the written authority of their workers deducted union dues at source and paid it over to the Union.

This arrangement was part of a collective agreement between the Union and various employers designed to achieve Union security.

Even after the legislation was passed some employers continued to make the deductions on legal advice.

The government orders such employers to stop the practice.

Then the government procured its agents in National Bank to go after the Union.

An attempt was made to seize part of the Union's valuable real estate.

Money given to the Union for a specific purpose by an international donor, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) was seized by the bank and applied to a completely different purpose. The Union was forced to sell of a piece of its property to seek to clear its indebtedness to the bank.

Deliberate efforts have been made, and with some success, to reduce the membership of the Union.

Yet despite this organized onslaught the Union has survived these 7 troublous years.

Credit for the Union's survival must be attributed to a number of factors.

The Union which has been in existence for close on 50 years is not only built upon a solid foundation but has made an enormous contribution to the socio-economic development in this country and has promoted scholarship among the working class.

The Union has served its members and workers, generally, well.

The Union has been in the forefront of promoting healthy harmonious industrial relations and the development of proper mechanisms for the resolution of conflicts. For anyone to ignore the experience of the Union in this country is the height of madness and anyone who does so, does so at his own peril.

The Union ordered its affairs aright. In the last 7 years when there have been problems with liquidity in the Union, the membership can nevertheless be satisfied that the Union has made available investments in highly desirable real estate.

The Union has established this newspaper and its predecessors as an organ of communication among its members and with the public generally. Throughout its life and more particularly during the last 7 years this newspaper has carried the fight for the cause of the working people in this land.

This newspaper has exposed evil and promoted justice. It has been a major source of information as it has remained faithful to its masthead "sound speech that cannot be condemned."

The Union early affiliated itself to the international free trade union movement. Our Union was a founding member of the ICFTU and our late president, Comrade Bradshaw was one of the original office holders in that body.

This involvement in the international free trade union movement has in no small measure assisted our survival in these perilous times.

Through our affiliation we are able to attract funds for special projects from international donors; we are able to get fellowships and internships so we can still send members abroad for training. Through our union people regularly go to Washington, D.C. for study and people have gone as far afield as Israel.

Our international affiliates regularly assist us in holding seminars and workshops to train officials in the Trade Union Movement.

Our membership in the Caribbean Congress of Labour opens up many opportunities for us and presents us with many challenges.

It is because of our international affiliation that our President was privileged in September this year to take part in the Annual Labour Day Parade on Fifth Avenue, New York which this year honoured Grenada born Peter Ottley.

It is because of our international and regional affiliation why our Union can this year have as its special guest speaker, a trade unionist from Barbados, Mr Nigel Harper, the President of the National Union of Public Workers.

The Union continues to look for new and creative ways to serve its members.

Less than a month ago the Union opened a pre-school at Manchester Hall in Sandy Point. This pre-school opened in the Union's own premises with the Union's own funds caters for some 40 children and demonstrates the commitment of the Union to continue to serve this community.

The accumulated experience of the Union has clearly served well as in recent times the Union has acted with maturity and responsibility in bringing to a peaceful end certain industrial disputes.

This newspaper is assured that with a background like that, the future of the Union is assured.

As the Union goes into Conference news is afoot that other unions are being formed.

There is a new Civil Service Association for example and we also understand that other unions are being promoted.

We do not in the least object to the formation of any union. Nay, we welcome the rebirth of the Civil Service Association. We will support a strong public service union.

It would be a great tragedy if anyone is thinking of forming a Union in opposition to the Trades & Labour Union.

Some unions like that have been formed in the past and we know their end. To those wishing to form new trade unions we declare that we accept that who is not against us is with us. [as published]

The very word 'union' suggests that it is unity towards which the working people should be striving. Unity is Strength.

Unions formed to separate the workers into small groups will be a formula for weakness.

Long live the St Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union.

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Columnist Portrays SLP Leader Hunte's Visit to Cuba

32980111a Castries CRUSADER in English
31 Oct 87 pp 5, 8

[Nicholas Joseph column "Tete-a-Tete": "Hunte's Cuban Conversion—Can It Last?"]

[Text] Whatever the miracle! Whatever the magic! Whatever the motive! the pre-election right-wing Leader of the St Lucia Labour Party Julian Hunte has seen the Cuban light.

Late last month Julian Hunte in the company of President of the National Workers Union Comrade Tyronne Maynard and Lawrence Poyotte, PRO of the SLP and an official of the NWU sneaked out of St Lucia on an official visit to Havana.

Their departure from St Lucia was not accompanied by the [word indistinct] press release, which has become the SLP's modus-operandi, nevertheless the press was on the ball, and reported that the comrades had left the island for Havana.

Following the disclosure in the Crusader, the St Lucia Labour Party was forced to issue a press release in which it termed what was first meant to be a "Secret-trip" as a "familiarization visit", and quoted Julian Hunte as saying, "The experience has shown that Cuba is a unique experience, which cannot be compared with the English speaking Caribbean."

This statement must surely have sent shock-waves to the Americans, who undoubtedly saw Julian Hunte as a replacement to John Compton as head of the U.S. lackeys in the region. It must be surprising to them, that Hunte is now dancing to the tune of another voice.

Hunte's post-election absolution of Cuba, is viewed in some circles as a reflection of a lack of proper direction. To some people it is seen as the WRM's tail wagging the SLP dog.

It is clear that the St Lucia Labour party does not enjoy a clear and direct foreign policy, based on a principled position. It is precisely against this background of one step forward and ten backwards that Julian Hunte was catapulted into the leadership spectrum, when Nevill Cenace handed over to him. Of course, Neville has admitted that his former colleagues are "unthankful" and "ungrateful", noting that the road one travels in the SLP is like from Bethany to Jerusalem, filled with snakes and hooligans.

Julian Hunte's new found friendship with the Cubans must be viewed against the background of the old adage that—"politics makes the strangest of bed-fellows." It is indeed strange that the same SLP Leadership which was

bitterly critical of the Cubans during the election campaign, can now encourage a relationship with them. It is the same SLP which supported the U.S. led invasion of Grenada in which many Cuban workers lost their lives.

Someone reminded me that there is a thin line between tactics and opportunism, and wondered whether the SLP's embrace of the Cubans, is not an act of opportunism which is the hall-mark of St Lucian politics.

How can St Lucians forget, that one of the reasons cited by Allan Louisy, as to why he could not honour his agreement to hand over the Prime Ministership to George Odum, was that Odum was going to take St Lucia into the Cuban camp? It was convenient for him to have used the anti-Cuban rhetoric as an opportunistic device to hold on to the reign of political power.

Admittedly, Hunte's sudden conversion recognising Cuba as a "Unique" Caribbean experience, tells you more of the influence of people on Hunte's Leadership qualities. It shows that the SLP Leader is unstable and moves to the dictates of his advisors. There is absolutely nothing wrong with a leader following advice, but when that leader follows advice which is in conflict with his stated belief, then it is clear that he is manageable and will move to the sound of any noise.

It is clear that Hunte's vacillation between right, left and centre is an indication that the SLP adheres to no clear-cut policy. Besides it is blatantly dishonest for a Party to conceal its relationship with Cuba during an election campaign, and immediately after the campaign be feasting at the Havana Libre in Cuba. The dishonesty stems from the fact, that the SLP during the campaign, projected an anti-Cuba stance.

The Cubans will be well advised not to hang their hats too high on this "love" relationship which now exists between themselves and the SLP leadership. Hunte is progressive when he listens to a progressive speech, and right-wing when he listens to his master's voice. His projection is not based on any principled position, but rather on the last voice which he heard. It will not be surprising if next week Hunte visits the United States and talks completely different from what he is doing now. For Cuban consumption his script will describe his audience as Comrades, but for American Consumption comrades will be a dirty word, such is the cast of mind of the SLP leadership.

Surely, we cannot forget that the St Lucia Labour Party had Frances Michel dismissed from the Party because she visited Cuba, and represented the SLP.

A matter which went to court.

There is absolutely no reason why the Cubans should place all their eggs in the SLP's basket. I can only guarantee them that they will all break at the sound of Reagan's voice but its a matter for them.

The Cubans must realise that the SLP Ethiopian cannot change his skin, nor the leopard his spots. There is every reason to believe that this Cuban Light which Hunte now holds on the top of the hill will soon be cast under a bushel. Hunte's disposition and orientation does not allow him the courage nor the will to fix his mind firmly on any principled position. His desperation and frustration to attain political office will cause him to abandon any relationship with Cuba come election time, if not before.

Hunte is not his own master, he was placed at the head of the SLP by outside designs, and he has been made in the image and likeness of those who installed him there. That Cuban posture is merely a show which can only go on as long as the directors of the puppet allow it. Hunte will be called upon shortly, to explain what all this means, and his obvious answer will be, let not your heart be troubled. I only went for the joy-ride and the Havana Club.

Hunte's apparent Cuban Conversion reminds me of the man who goes to church only on Christmas day!

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Unions Voice Support for OECS Unification Plans

*32980112b Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE
in English 10 Oct 87 p 4*

[Text] At least two local trade unions gave evidence of their support for the proposed political union of the OECS when they backed a resolution from an important meeting held in Barbados last week.

The Seamen, Waterfront and General Workers Union and the St Lucia Workers Union were signatories to a major statement by the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL), which called for an effective and democratic government in the event that political unity is achieved.

Both unions are local affiliates to the CCL, an umbrella body for several Caribbean trade unions. The Seamen, Waterfront and General Workers Union was represented by President Hilford Deterville, while General Secretary, Titus Francis, represented the St Lucia Workers Union. The two men are also members of important arms of the CCL, Francis being attached to the General Council, while Deterville sits on the Administrative Council.

Altogether, 33 union leaders from Jamaica to Suriname, participated in a seminar, which was followed by the important General Council meeting, where the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Director General of the OECS Dr Vaughn Lewis, and politicians, Lee Moore and Ralph Gonzalves, of St Kitts and St Vincent respectively, also participated in the seminar.

The text of the CCL resolution read:

The CCL, in supporting the political union of the OECS, wishes to state that in all stages of the preparation towards an OECS political union, the trade union movement must be an integral part of the process by being accorded full recognition in all discussions and formulation of plans towards the objective of a political union.

"In the event such a union is established, the CCL would expect the Government of that union to be an effective, democratic Government capable of achieving the goals, needs and aspirations of the peoples of the OECS.

"The CCL further calls on the OECS Heads to call at the regional OECS level, a meeting of all the major organisations namely the Heads of Government, SCOPE, CCL, CAIC, CCC, CARIWA, and any other regional organisation recognised by CARICOM and the OECS.

"These major elements are the social partners to be involved in the dialogue. This dialogue will clear up the vague references to the type of political union best suited for the OECS and will assist the national committees in answering the questions of taxation, customs, freedom of movement, rights of public servants, the judiciary, the disposition of the national debt, defence and security, trade union rights, recognition and security of free collective bargaining, etc."

The CCL General Council was requested to appoint a committee to assist in the participation of the CCL at the regional level and to provide its OECS affiliates with information on the unity question.

Meanwhile, the St Lucia Workers Union will be hosting a trade union seminar from November 16-20 to discuss some broad issues of an OECS political union.

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Trade Minister Reports on Commerce With Caricom

*32980112a Bridgetown CANA in English
2058 GMT 19 Nov 87*

[Text] Castries, 19 Nov—Trade and Industry Minister George Mallet has reported a 28.6 percent increase in St Lucia's 1986 reports to the rest of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) over 1985. Exports for 1986 to Caricom were valued at EC32.7 million dollars (1 Ec dollar 37 cents U.S.).

Addressing the annual general meeting of the St Lucia Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday he said that the island had done reasonably well in spite of several difficulties in obtaining access to Caricom markets.

The trade minister said that in trading with fellow members of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) alone, St Lucia's domestic exports showed a 29 percent increase over 1985.

For this year our export figures continue to be encouraging. Other than Dominica, which has a .2 percent increase and St Kitts, a 7.2 percent over 1986, our export figures for the January to June period showed a 17.1 percent increase in trade within the region.

Looking at the export of agricultural produce, the minister said that banana prices remained attractive during last year continuing to 1987, although there will be some drop in earnings because of reduced production following this year's drought.

However, he said that the marketing difficulties which had beset the coconut industry in recent years were largely alleviated during 1987. Sales to Jamaica in particular have been most commendable. "That country is taking up more than its entire oil allocation under the Oils and Fats Agreement in pre-packed rather than in bulk."

Mallet said that sales of coconut oil to Trinidad and Tobago had not materialised so far this year. However, in the case of Barbados, which had in recent years been "unwilling" to take up allocations, an arrangement was successfully concluded, whereby it would import locally refined substitute oil in lieu of coconuts.

"St Lucia in turn is authorised to sell on the world market the coconut oil which was allocated but not taken," Mallet explained. For 1987, therefore, edible oil performance is expected to remain satisfactory, with sales continuing to Jamaica and Barbados.

In the coming years, the local industry will have to anticipate competition from Trinidad and Tobago, as its soya bean oil facility gets into full production, the minister said.

He said that 1986 witnessed the best performance to date of exports to the United States. Domestic exports rose to EC24 million dollars from a three-year low of EC17 million, reflecting a 41.2 percent increase.

Mallet suggested that Caribbean Common Market countries should commit themselves to increasing purchases of Caricom goods by an agreed percentage.

During last year the community's imports totalled the equivalent of EC10.5 billion dollars. Of that total only 2.5 percent was of Caricom origin. We should make a deliberate effort to ensure that total, and increase it substantially. "We should, therefore, positively seek to achieve a level of Caricom imports equivalent to 20 percent of our total 1986 export by the end of 1989." This is a reachable target the community should set itself, Mallet suggested.

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Reportage on Proceedings at Labor Party Convention

Hunte Address

32980111b Castries *THE VOICE in English*
28 Oct 87 p 1

[Article by David Vitalis: "SLP Leader Suggests to Convention: Protest March by Jobless"]

[Text] The local unemployment situation is of "the gravest concern" to the St Lucia Labour Party (SLP), and political leader, Julian Hunte, believes that the time has come for the Party to "forcibly" make that point.

He told the annual convention at Laborie Sunday that one such strategy which the SLP should give consideration to, in order to drive home the unemployment message, would be to organise a public march of the unemployed on the day of the official opening of the Government buildings, now under construction at Conway.

The SLP is against the construction of the two high-rise buildings, which form part of the Castries Waterfront Re-Development Project.

Hunte said that he did not wish to get involved in a debate over the true unemployment figure. What he was concerned about was that all the figures, whether UWP or SLP figures, presented an unacceptable high rate of unemployment and under-employment in this nation.

Said the political leader: "The question to be asked is: what does the Government intend to do about this? The answer we expect is a positive one. We can no longer accept Government's negative utterances on functional illiteracy, rural-urban drift, teenage pregnancies, and indiscipline. These are the effects of unemployment.

'A Positive Plan'

"...What is needed and what we are entitled to expect from this administration is a positive plan to resolve this situation. The Prime Minister perennially laments the fact that over 3,000 school leavers enter the job market each year. What he has not been telling us is how his Government intends to provide employment for those young people. There must be a mechanism to deal with this problem."

He said it was not the SLP's business to provide the Government with an unemployment strategy, but given the opportunity to administer the affairs of the country, the SLP would make "serious inroads in that area.["]

Unlike the 1979-82 SLP Administration, Hunte said, the now UWP Government has been blessed over the last two years with a "bouyant banana industry" and with a

banking system, which at one point, had excess liquidity in the region of \$200 million. Those conditions provided the UWP with an "auspicious environment" for formulating an exciting, creative and dynamic programme to tackle the unemployment situation.

He asked whether the authorities were giving extensive fiscal incentives to industries which were not labour intensive.

"Given the fact that we have such a grave unemployment problem, one would think that a prudent manager would give priority to a linkage between unemployment and industrialisation. But obviously, this is not the case in St Lucia," Hunte told the convention.

The political leader saw the OECS political unity debate as a "smokescreen" behind which the Government was hiding its failures.

He reiterated his party's support for the principle of OECS and wider Caribbean unity, but he also repeated his despire for the track record of the proponent leaders.

Convention Resolutions

32980111b *Castries THE VOICE in English*
28 Oct 87 p 3

[Text] Delegates attending the annual convention of the St Lucia Labour Party (SLP) Sunday voted en masse against the introduction of casino gambling here, and have also given permission to their parliamentary representatives to censure the Government on the issue at the next meeting of the House of Assembly.

A resolution moved by retired civil servants, Martin Elwin, during the open session of the convention held at Laborie, found almost total support among the delegates, who form the representatives of SLP followers in the island's 17 constituencies.

The support for the resolution gives the SLP a basis for a definitive position on the introduction of casino gambling here, proposed by the ruling United Workers Party Government.

Before Sunday's resolution the SLP had been viewing casino gambling as a moral issue on which St Lucians would have to decide.

The resolution deemed "casino gambling or any other gambling" as being contrary to the moral principles held and cherished by the majority of the Christian community, adding that its introduction here will lead to an increase in criminal activity, prostitution and drug abuse, which would in turn lead to an increase in the cost of crime prevention and detection.

The resolution said that the introduction of casino gambling into Antigua and St Vincent had not resulted in any significant increase in the number of tourists visiting those States nor the filtering down to their economies of the tourist dollar.

Continued the resolution: "Whereas there are other alternatives that are not offensive to the moral principles held and cherished by St Lucians and should first be considered.

"Whereas one such alternative is structuring and diversification of the tourist industry so as to ensure greater local participation through ownership of guest houses and small hotels to complement our existing large hotels and provide a strong link with agriculture....

"Be it resolved that at the next or subsequent meeting of the House of Assembly a motion of censure or no confidence is moved against the Government of St Lucia for its bankruptcy of ideas and its failure to advance appropriate proposals for the local development of a diversified tourist industry."

Delegates also backed another resolution for increased grower participation in the St Lucia Banana Growers Association. The resolution read out by Party Chairman, Tom Walcott, called for a more equitable system which would enhance the participation of the majority of growers in the decision-making process of the Association.

Election of Leaders

32980111b *Castries THE VOICE in English*
28 Oct 87 p 3

[Text] As was widely expected, Julian Hunte was once again endorsed as political leader of the St Lucia Labour Party (SLP) at the annual convention held at Laborie Sunday.

Hunte, who led the party in the last general elections, winning eight of the 17 seats in the House of Assembly, was given another vote of confidence by delegates. He was made leader of the Party in 1984 by virtue of an agreement in which then leader, Nevill Cenac agreed to step down.

Cenac subsequently broke ranks with the SLP to become Foreign Minister in the United Workers Party Government.

Peter Josie and Tom Wallcott were re-elected Deputy Political Leader and Party Chairman respectively.

Other members of the executive are: Charles Augustin, vice chairman; Hilary Modeste, second vice chairman; Baden Allain, general secretary; Oliver Scott, assistant secretary; Phillip Pierre, treasurer; Lawrence Poyotte, public relations officer; Horatius Phillips, Simon Paul, and Roland Baptiste, trustees.

Charles Augustin, a founder member of the Party, was also made Honorary Life Chairman.

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Banana Growers Cut 1987 Target by 15,000 Tons

32980112c Castries *THE VOICE in English*
14 Oct 87 p 1

[Article by David Vitalis]

[Text] The St Lucia Banana Growers Association (SLBGA) has now reduced the island's end-of-year banana production estimate from 100,000 to 85,000 tonnes.

The production review was undertaken by the SLBGA following the passage of Tropical Storm 'Emily', which devastated crops across the island last month.

This has been the second major review undertaken by the SLBGA as a direct consequence of natural disasters so far this year. At the end of a bumper 1986, during which production reached 112,682 tonnes and generating \$143 million in revenue, the SLBGA had set 120,000 tonnes as the 1987 target. But following drought and sudden rains during the first half of the year, that estimate was downgraded to 100,000 tonnes.

The damage done by 'Emily' was put at a national average of 15 percent, forcing the SLBGA to arrive at its latest end-of-year forecast.

However, last weekend's annual general meeting of the SLBGA made no production forecast for 1988, but a board of directors report implored growers to "remain competitive" in order to ensure survival of the United Kingdom market.

It said that there was a necessity for growers to increase their overall yield per acre, and more importantly, the quality of the fruit. The report warned against oversupply to the UK market during the lean winter months, adding that cognizance must also be taken of the important consideration of tailoring production to meet the seasonal demands of the supply market.

"Failure to do this will only result in reduced returns to growers, a situation which must be avoided at all costs.

"In addition...we must endeavour to seek new markets at the best possible prices and this, in addition to the dedication, determination and discipline of island's growers, will enable us to face the future with the assurance that we have all done our best and so expect the best in return for our efforts," the report said.

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Human Rights Group Protests Alleged Police Abuses

32980113b Kingstown *THE VINCENTIAN* in English
16 Oct 87 p 1

[Text] President of the St Vincent and the Grenadines Human Rights Association, Barrister-at-Law Victor Cuffy, has protested to the Commissioner of Police against an alleged "increase in police brutality and illegal police methods over the past year."

According to a release from the HRA President "Several persons have complained to the Association that they were beaten while in police custody. Their stories range from being badly gouged with the butts of rifles while hand-cuffed, beatings on both knees with staves, kicks in the face, pushing a man's head into a toilet bowl and squeezing his testicles while in that position, and so on."

The Association is recommending the establishment of a Citizens Tribunal through joint action by the Minister responsible for the Police and the Minister for Legal Affairs, for the purpose of investigating complaints made by citizens. Mr Cuffy feels that no police should sit on this Tribunal.

The local Human Rights Association has pledged to continue to monitor the situation and keep the public informed regarding any illegal police practices brought to its notice.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner of Police has replied to the HRA refuting knowledge of the charges. He said in his letter that members of the Police Force were carrying out their duties in keeping with the Police Act No 48/47.

The Commissioner also stated,

"Any misconception of the powers of the Police to take lawful measures for preserving the public peace, preventing and detecting crimes/offences and apprehending persons who have committed crimes/offences shall be discouraged."

The letter concluded "...if perhaps reports against members of the Police Force are made by you or other members of the public, prompt investigations are being carried out into these complaints and if proved, severe punishment enforced."

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Paper Hits Labor Party Leader on Grenadines Issue

32980113a Kingstown *THE VINCENTIAN* in English
2 Oct 87 p 4

[Editorial: "Flogging a Dead Horse"]

[Text] You certainly have to take off your hat to the Labour Party for its tenacity even if the subject is utter folly. We refer to Opposition Leader Vincent Beache's

demand that Prime Minister James Mitchell retract the Grenadines Declaration—allegedly a dastardly document demanding secession from St Vincent by the Grenadines.

The subject was pounded by the Labour Party before the 1984 General Elections. The voters showed their utter contempt for the effort to undermine Mitchell by voting eight of the twelve St Vincent proper candidates nominated by Mitchell into parliament. When former Labour Party Leader Milton Cato retired from Parliament, the people reiterated their faith in Mitchell's leadership by handing the seat that Cato had held, not to a Labour Party replacement but, to the New Democratic Party's Louis Jones. When NDP's Eddie Griffith died suddenly and left a vacancy in the House, the people once more endorsed their confidence in Mitchell by returning another NDP candidate—Parnel Campbell. In spite of all this proof of confidence in the Grenadines' man Mitchell as their leader, by the residents of St Vincent itself, Grenadines Declaration or no Grenadines Declaration, the Labour Party won't give up. The relative strengths of the NDP and the Labour Party in St Vincent and the Grenadines 10:3 is proof that Beache is beating a dead horse, and trying to use a dishonest approach in a desperate effort to belittle Mitchell. The truth is that the dead horse that is being beaten never did any galloping. It demonstrated that an idea has been born.

First, it should be noted that the word secession appears nowhere in the Grenadines Declaration!

Second the circumstances under which the people of the Grenadines exhorted their Parliamentary representative to demand for themn autonomous status were extremely aggravating. Apart from the general approach to Grenadines people as second class citizens handed out, and little or no consideration, there has been at least two extremely unpalative episodes in Union Island—the brutal handling of persons arrested in a "rebellion" in which the rebels did not fire a single shot or shed one drop of blood; and the landing of Barbadian troops, in other words foreign soldiers, on the island. Singly, the episodes were humiliating, together they added up a degrading and frustrating experience bound to stir up bitter resentment in a proud people.

What the Grenadines Declaration demanded was Justice or Autonomy! It was the democratic duty of the people's representative to convey the will of his constituents to the government. Mitchell did his duty as the Grenadines' representative and then proceeded to do his duty as the leader of the nation of St Vincent and the Grenadines to establish unity through justice. Fragmentation was never part of Mitchell's dream. Having accomplished St Vincent and the Grenadines unity he is now seeking OECS unity. If he fails God help us.

It seems a pity that the SVG official Opposition should subjugate the opportunity for participating in momentous history-making to the flogging of a dead horse.

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Infrastructure Projects, Tourism Boom for Grenadines

32980113c Kingstown *THE VINCENTIAN* in English
23 Oct 87 p 6

[From the Elvis Ollivierre column "News From the Grenadines"]

[Text] Grenadines—An EC\$8.3 million programme called the Grenadines Multi-Project will get started by end of this year, the Minister of Grenadines Affairs James Mitchell assured citizens here in a written profile.

Mr Mitchell, who is also Prime Minister, stated that the Multi-Project programme includes building and repairing roads, piers, water catchment facilities and other infrastructures which require urgent attention particularly in Union Island, Mayreau, Canouan, and Bequia—the main commercial islands.

He stated that the Multi-Project's source of finance is "mainly a loan from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)" which is providing EC\$7.52 million with counterpart funding of EC\$848,000 coming from the Government of St Vincent and the Grenadines.

"It took a long time trying to find an appropriate source of funding for the long neglected infrastructure in all the Grenadines," Mitchell noted adding it wasn't until last year that the Board of Governors of the CDB expressed an interest in lending some assistance.

Mitchell pointed out that the number of Consulting Engineers from England (17), Canada (14), Barbados (4), Trinidad and Tobago (4), France, Holland, Jamaica and the United States (1 each), who applied to work on the Multi-Project programme has been short-listed to four (4), and word is now being awaited from the CDB on the final selection.

The selected firm is expected to put forward proposals and will also produce the designs and bidding documents for contracts on the piers and roads, Mitchell said.

Canouan—Citizens here have been urged by Government to get set to take full advantage of the opportunities to be derived from tourism expected to boom soon after the upgrading of the airstrips and hotels.

The young people, in particular, are being told that they must get their act together and prepare themselves for the upcoming job offers in the hotel industry and be ready to undertake training.

Government has also encouraged natives to plan their way into the house rental business before the tourism boom takes hold all because Canouan, like its sister island Mayreau, is ideally suited to reap much benefit in the future from the development of the Tobago Cays (located about 35 miles south of St Vincent) as a National Park.

Hotels on the island are being expanded and the airstrip, now out of operation because of construction work, resumes in December upgraded with night-landing facilities and a well surfaced strip financed by France and Canada respectively. This new development is sure to bring many more visitors to the island to occupy more hotel rooms thus creating jobs.

Employment on this four square mile island is a scarcity but Government is optimistic that in the near future the people will be engaged in permanent employment in tourism, construction, and in the service industries.

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Sugar Workers' Leader Scores Political Indifference
32980115b Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS
in English 30 Nov 87 p 5

[Text] All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers' Trade Union general secretary, Sam Maharaj, has charged that politicians have consistently used the sugar workers to get in power and then turn their backs on them.

"I promise you this will not happen again," thundered Maharaj as he addressed the 50th anniversary Conference of Delegates of the union on Saturday at Rienzi Complex, Couva.

He said: "If we are to sacrifice, everyone must sacrifice. If our industry is shut down then the whole country must and will shut down."

Referring to the political events in the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), Maharaj said: "The traumatic events of the last few days have left us in even greater doubt about the future and our place in it. But we were born in struggle. This shaped us and our union. And we would not give up the struggle while our cause is just, and justice is denied us. We are a responsible union, fully willing and able to play our part in the scheme of things in the development of our nation."

But, Maharaj said, the union will not lay down its rights while there were others who were unwilling to do so. "We cannot be the only ones to sacrifice," he said.

"History has shown that we have always been the ones sacrificed on the altar of necessity, on the altar of greed, on the altar of selfishness. We have been the ones thrown to the wolves and discarded when we are considered to

be no longer useful. This is the history of the 50s and 60s. The politician sought our vote and having got them, deserted us. Having used us, they left us," he told his audience.

Said he: "There are others who know the meaning of struggle only from looking it up in the dictionary. We have lived struggle. We know the blood, the sweat and the tears of struggle. And what we could do once, we could do again. This is not a threat. This is a guarantee."

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Government Agrees To Import Beef From Belize
32980115c Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN
in English 10 Dec 87 p 4

[Text] Government has decided in principle to import beef from Belize to meet local shortfalls, Food Production Minister, Lincoln Myers revealed yesterday during a tour of Nestle Limited at Valsayn.

Mr Myers, on a tour of the company, made enquiries about trading relations with Belize which is a substantial user of sweetened condensed milk and a source of citrus concentrate.

Mr Myers, accompanied by company officials, expressed interest in the range of manufacturing operations and products produced by the plant. He was impressed by the usage of local materials such as milk and coffee, but expressed some concern over the downturn in milk production.

Milk Subsidy

Meanwhile, several farmers, who knew of the Minister's visit, sought from the Minister, through the company, his response to the outstanding issue of their milk subsidy. The Minister promised to look into the matter.

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END